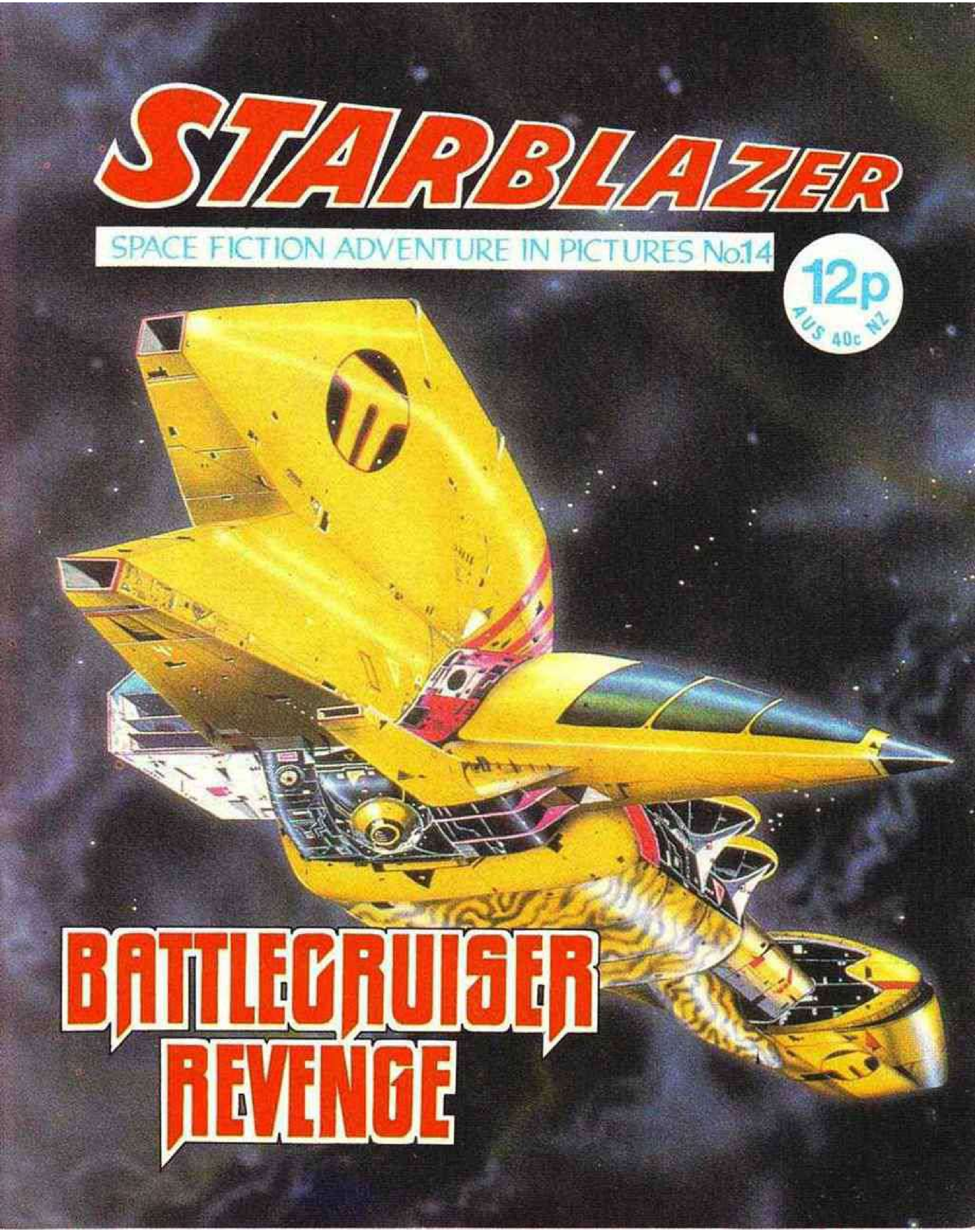
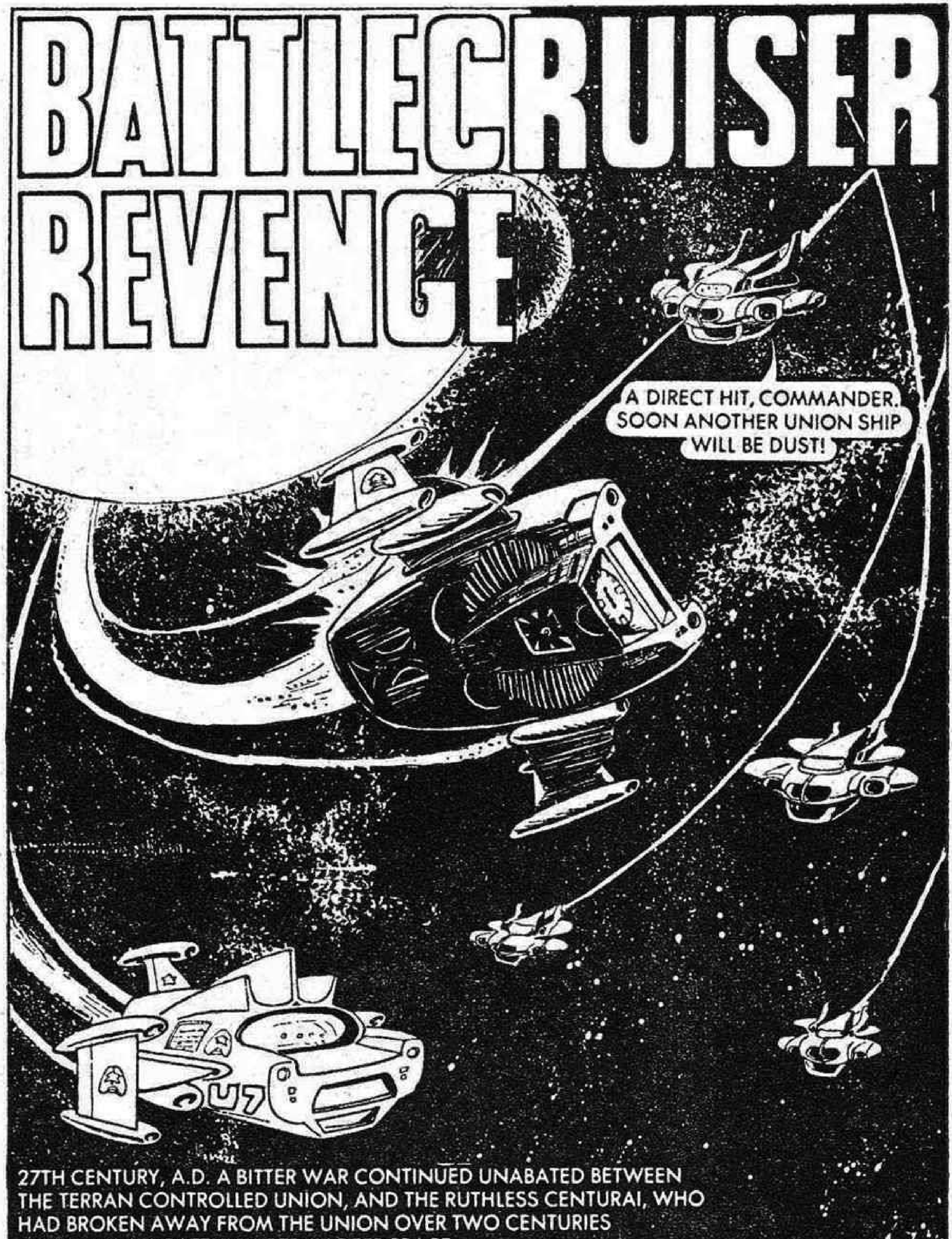

STARBLAZER
SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No.14
12p
AUS 40c NZ
BATTLECRUISER REVENGE


STARBLAZER
Over the years Earth had colonised many planets. One of the largest colonies claimed independence, but the Terran Council refused. The colonists resorted to violence. A powerful Terran force crushed the rebellion, and the colonists were expelled to a distant planet . . . Pi Centurai. Over hundreds of years the Centurai became almost as strong as the Earth Union. Now they returned, seeking revenge . . .

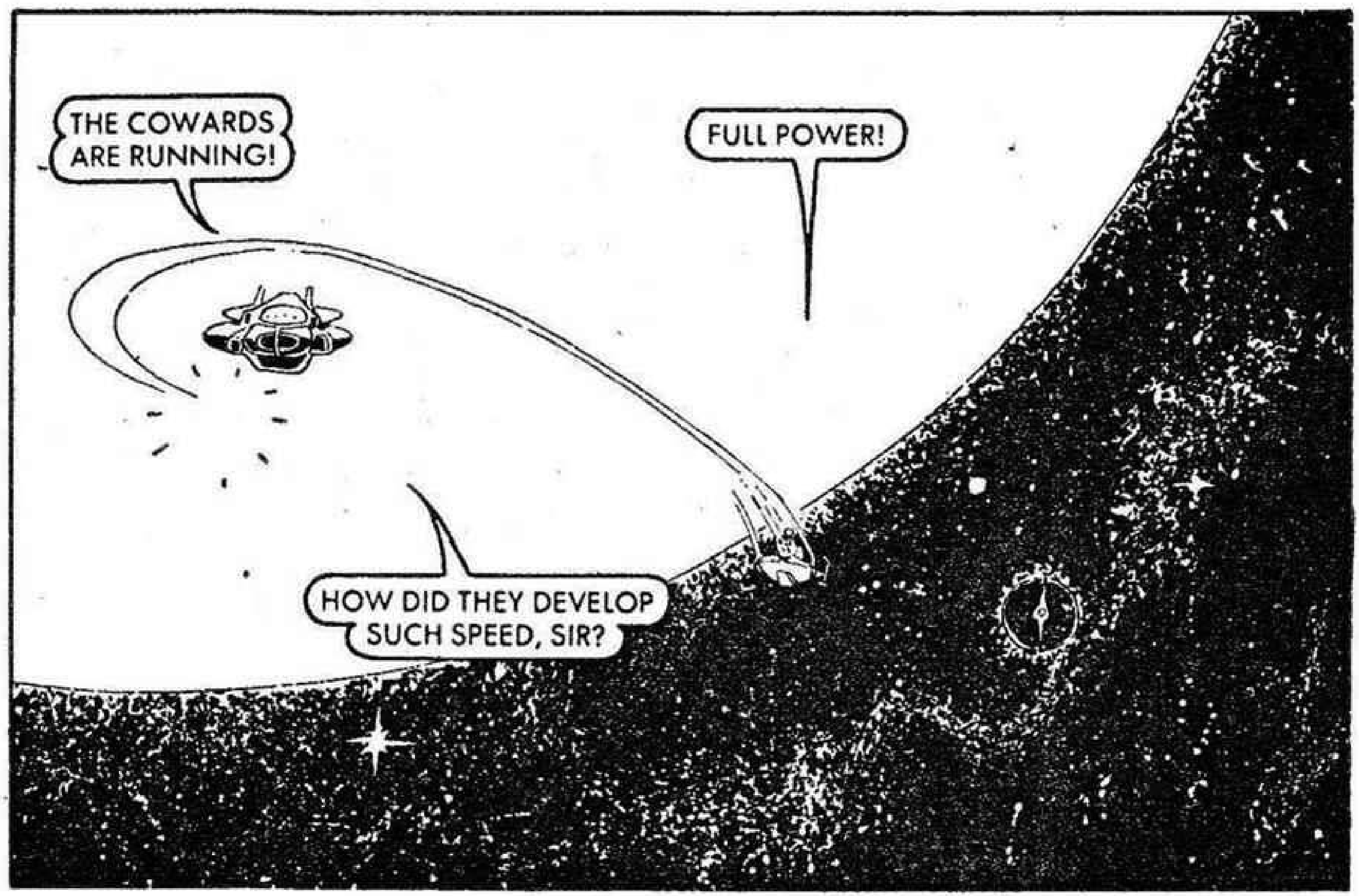
BATTLECRUISER REVENGE



27TH CENTURY, A.D. A BITTER WAR CONTINUED UNABATED BETWEEN THE TERRAN CONTROLLED UNION, AND THE RUTHLESS CENTURAI, WHO HAD BROKEN AWAY FROM THE UNION OVER TWO CENTURIES PREVIOUSLY. A BATTLE RAGED IN DEEP SPACE.

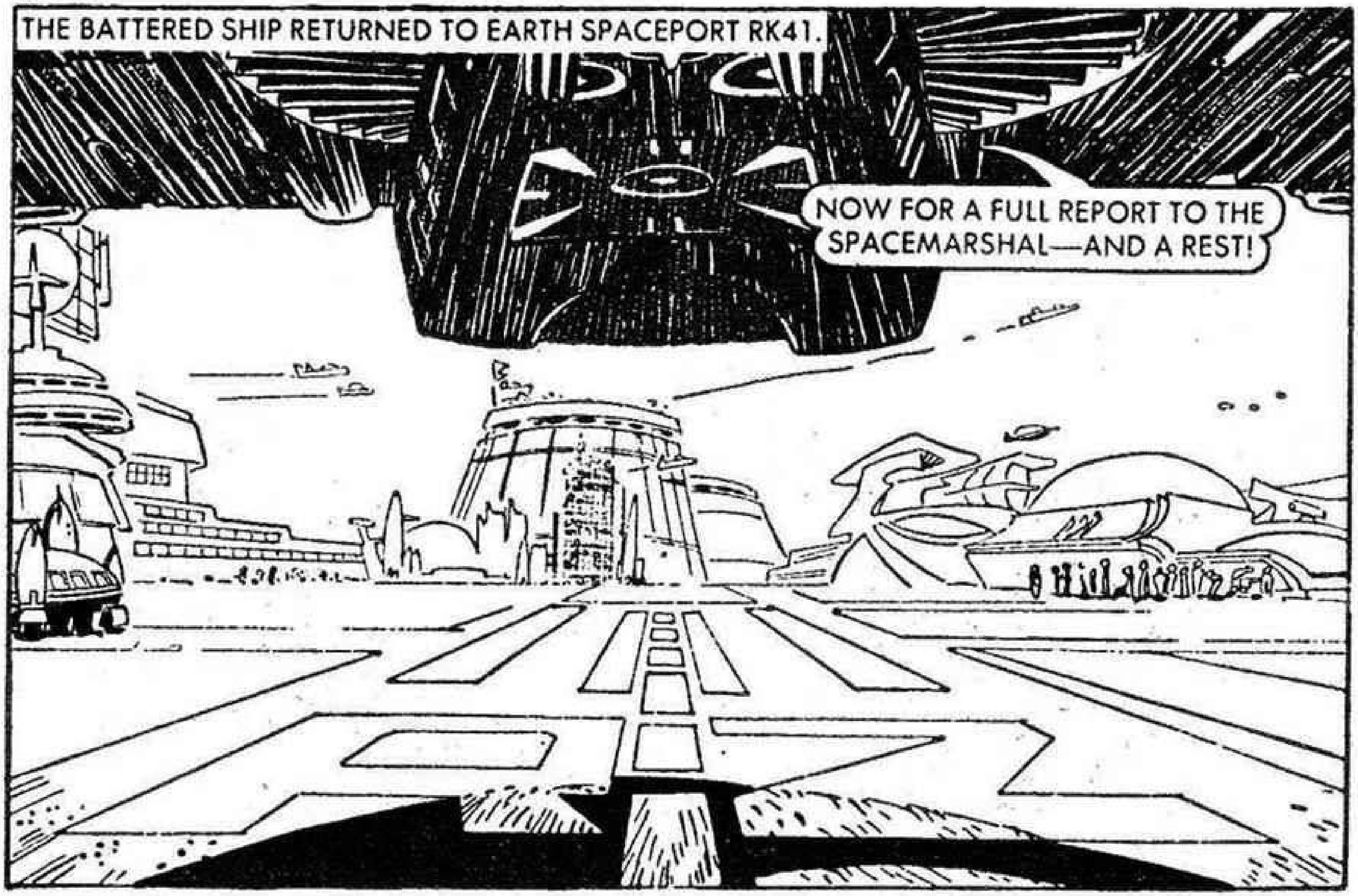

ON BOARD THE UNION SHIP, LIEUTENANT JERRY GALLEN ASSESSED THE POSITION.
THE CAPTAIN'S INJURED, JERRY. YOU'LL HAVE TO ASSUME COMMAND!
WHAT A TIME TO GET MY FIRST COMMAND! WHAT'S OUR STATUS?
THE FORCEFIELD WAS NEARLY BREACHED ON THAT LAST SALVO.
WE'RE SITTING DUCKS HERE. FEED ALL THE ENERGY INTO THE DRIVES AND ACCELERATE FULL ASTERN— WE MIGHT ESCAPE!

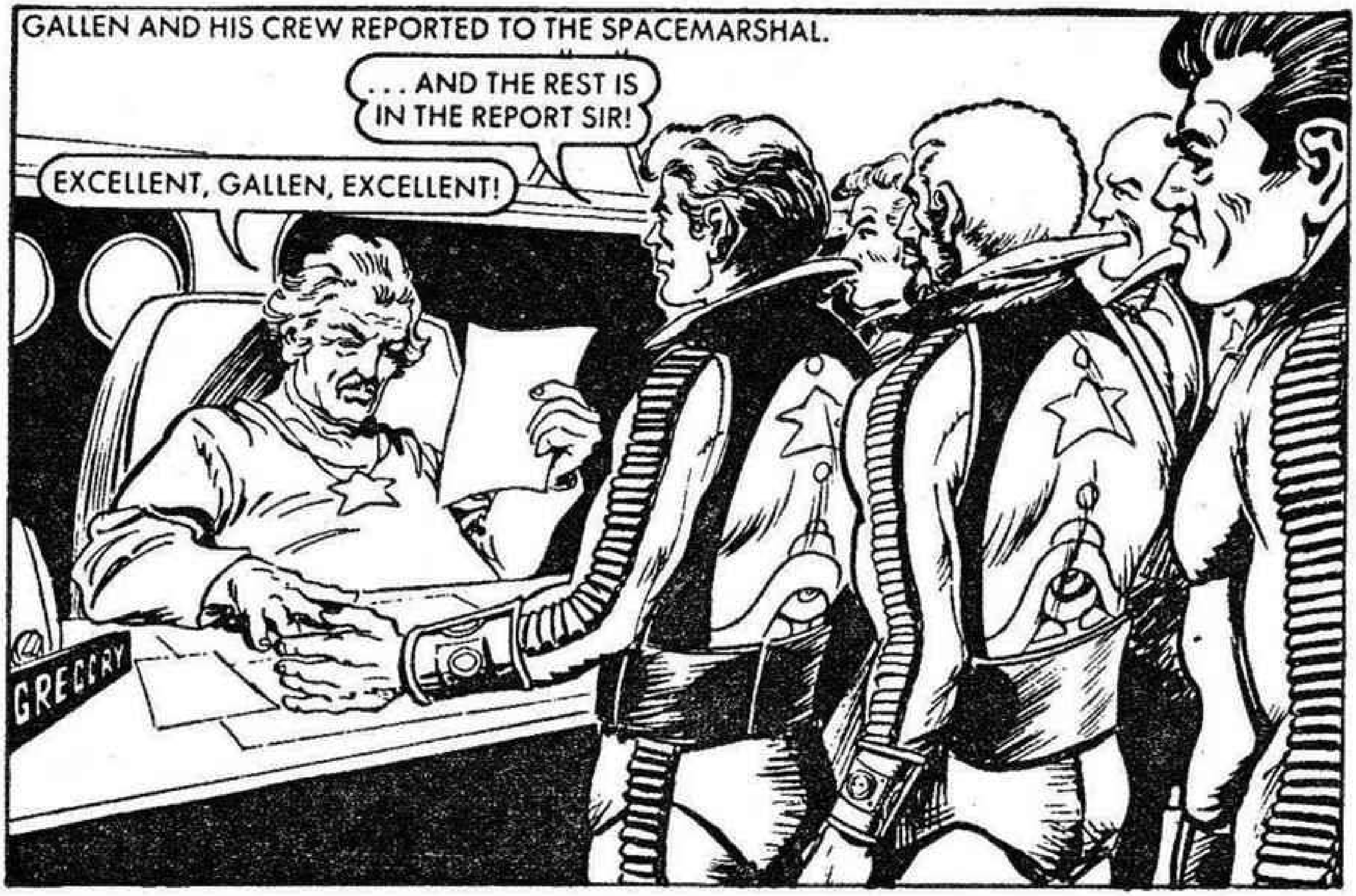

THAT'LL LEAVE US WITHOUT POWER TO FIRE LASER CANNON. I THINK WE SHOULD FIGHT IT OUT.
WE HAVEN'T GOT A HOPE! HOLLIS, TRANSFER ALL POWER TO DRIVES. FULL ASTERN, IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEIR NEXT SALVO!


THE COWARDS ARE RUNNING!
FULL POWER!
HOW DID THEY DEVELOP SUCH SPEED, SIR?

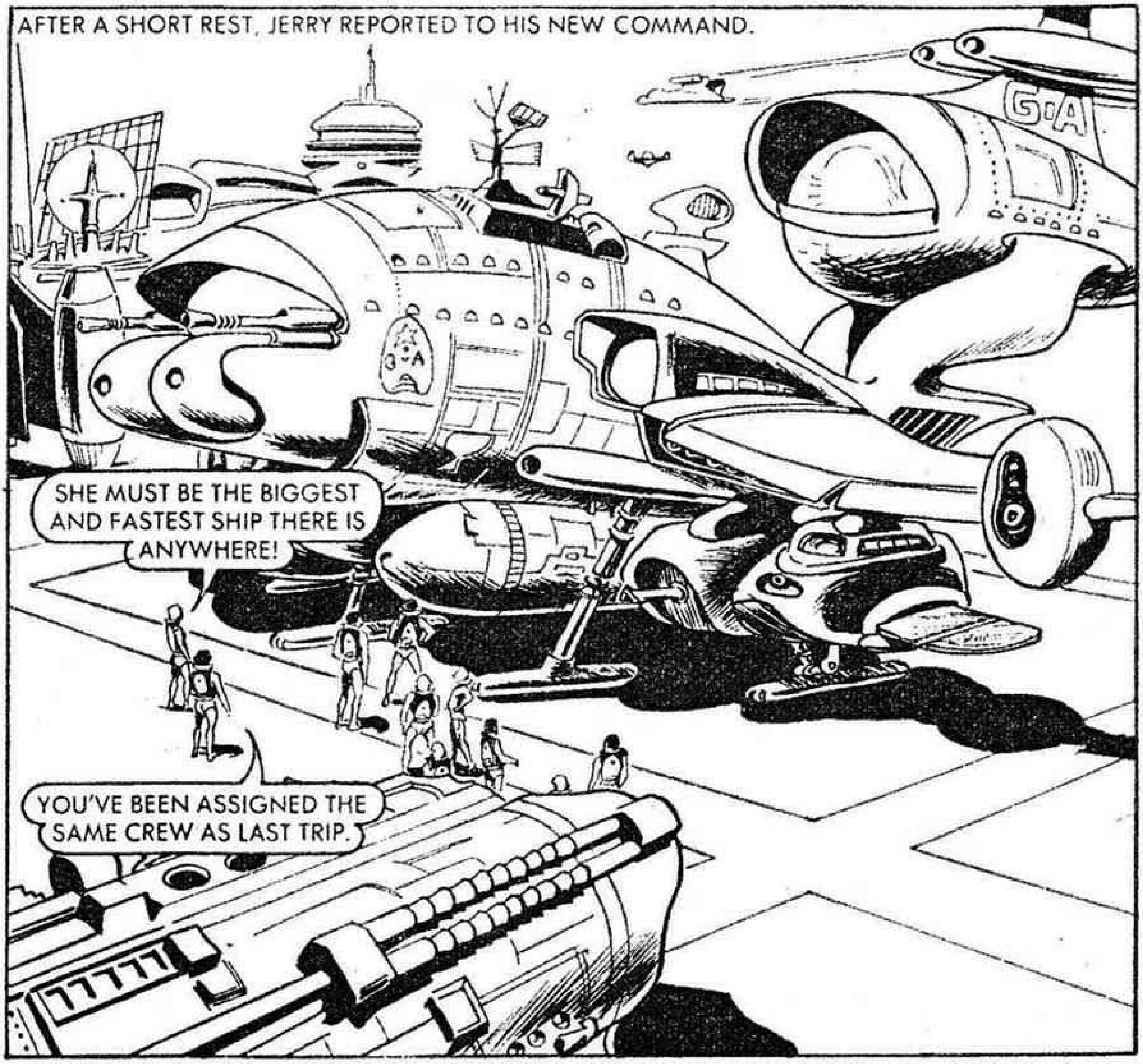

YOUR IDEA WORKED! WELL DONE, JERRY. NOW IT'S BACK TO THE SPACEPORT FOR A REFIT.
NOT YET! THE CENTURAI WILL THINK WE'VE FLED. HOPEFULLY THEY'LL HAVE LOWERED THEIR OWN FORCEFIELD.
IF WE CIRCLE ROUND BEHIND THAT STAR AND COME UP BEHIND THEM, I RECKON WE MIGHT JUST WIN THE DAY YET!
THE CENTURAI SHIP GAVE UP THE CHASE.
SHALL WE PURSUE THEM, COMMANDER?
NO, THEY COULD BE ANYWHERE NOW. LOWER THE FORCEFIELD, NO NEED TO WASTE ENERGY!


THE UNION SHIP'S SENSORS PICKED UP THE FADING FORCEFIELD.
THEIR FIELD HAS BEEN DROPPED, SIR!
PULSAR CANNON . . . FIRE!
DIRECT HIT . . . 100% DAMAGE.


THE BATTERED SHIP RETURNED TO EARTH SPACEPORT RK41.
NOW FOR A FULL REPORT TO THE SPACEMARSHAL—AND A REST!


GALLEN AND HIS CREW REPORTED TO THE SPACEMARSHAL.
. . . AND THE REST IS IN THE REPORT SIR!
EXCELLENT, GALLEN, EXCELLENT!
GREGORY


YOUR ACTION HAS EARNED YOU PROMOTION TO CAPTAIN. YOUR FIRST OFFICIAL COMMAND WILL BE BATTLECRUISER REVENGE. GOOD LUCK, CAPTAIN GALLEN.

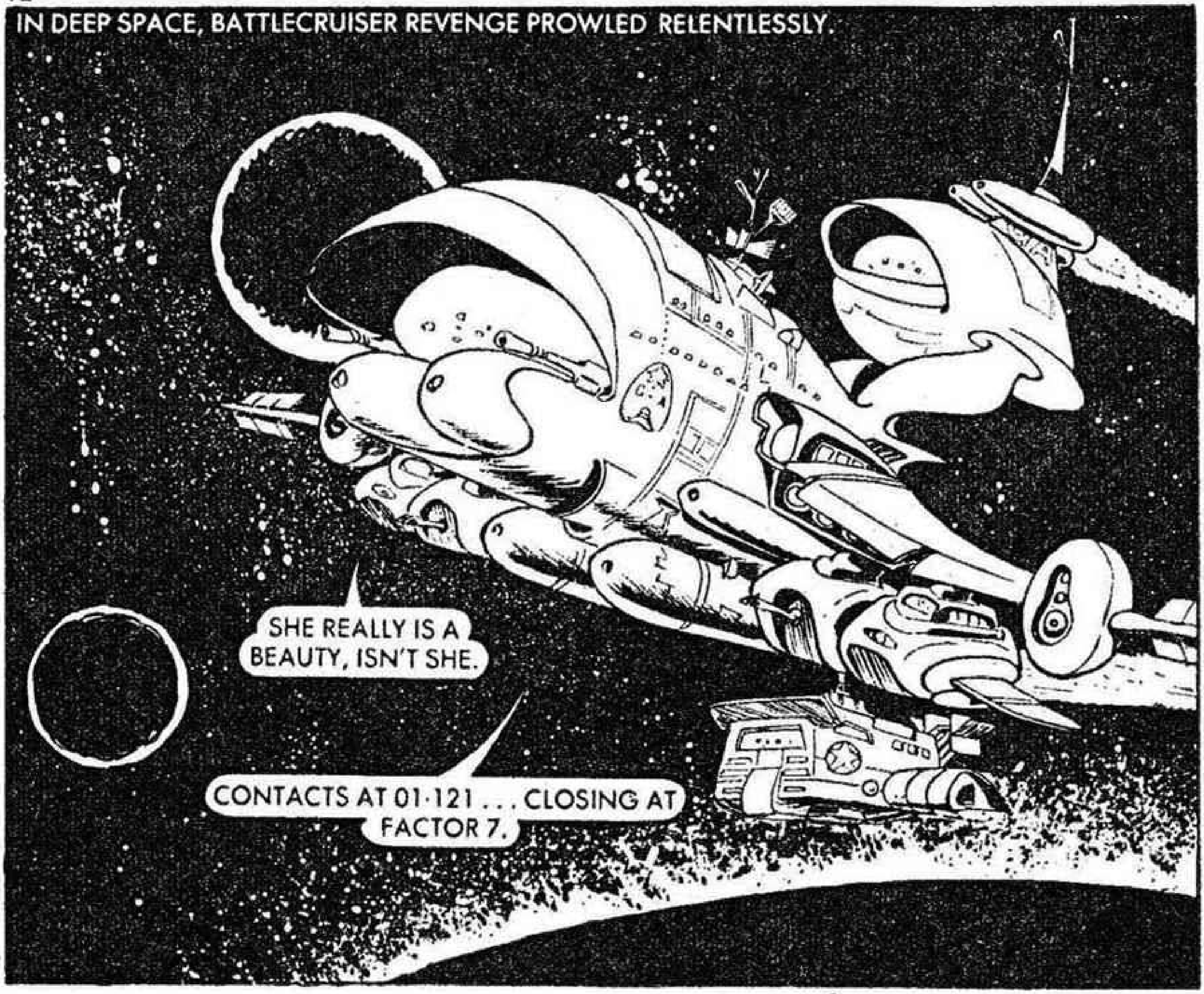

AFTER A SHORT REST, JERRY REPORTED TO HIS NEW COMMAND.
G-A
SHE MUST BE THE BIGGEST AND FASTEST SHIP THERE IS ANYWHERE!
YOU'VE BEEN ASSIGNED THE SAME CREW AS LAST TRIP.


IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE JERRY RECEIVED HIS ORDERS.
OUR FIRST MISSION IS TO ESCORT ADMIRAL BRANT TO PRAXIS. HE WILL TRY TO PERSUADE THE PRAXIANS OF THE THREAT THE CENTURAI POSE TO THIS WHOLE GLACTIC SECTOR. AS YOU KNOW, PRAXIS IS NEUTRAL, SO THE ADMIRAL WILL BE TRAVELLING IN AN UNARMED TROOP TRANSPORT.


IF PRAXIS JOINS US, OUR COMBINED FORCES WILL DEFEAT THE CENTURAI. IF NOT, THE CENTURAI MAY WELL DEFEAT PRAXIS AND AFTER THAT—US.

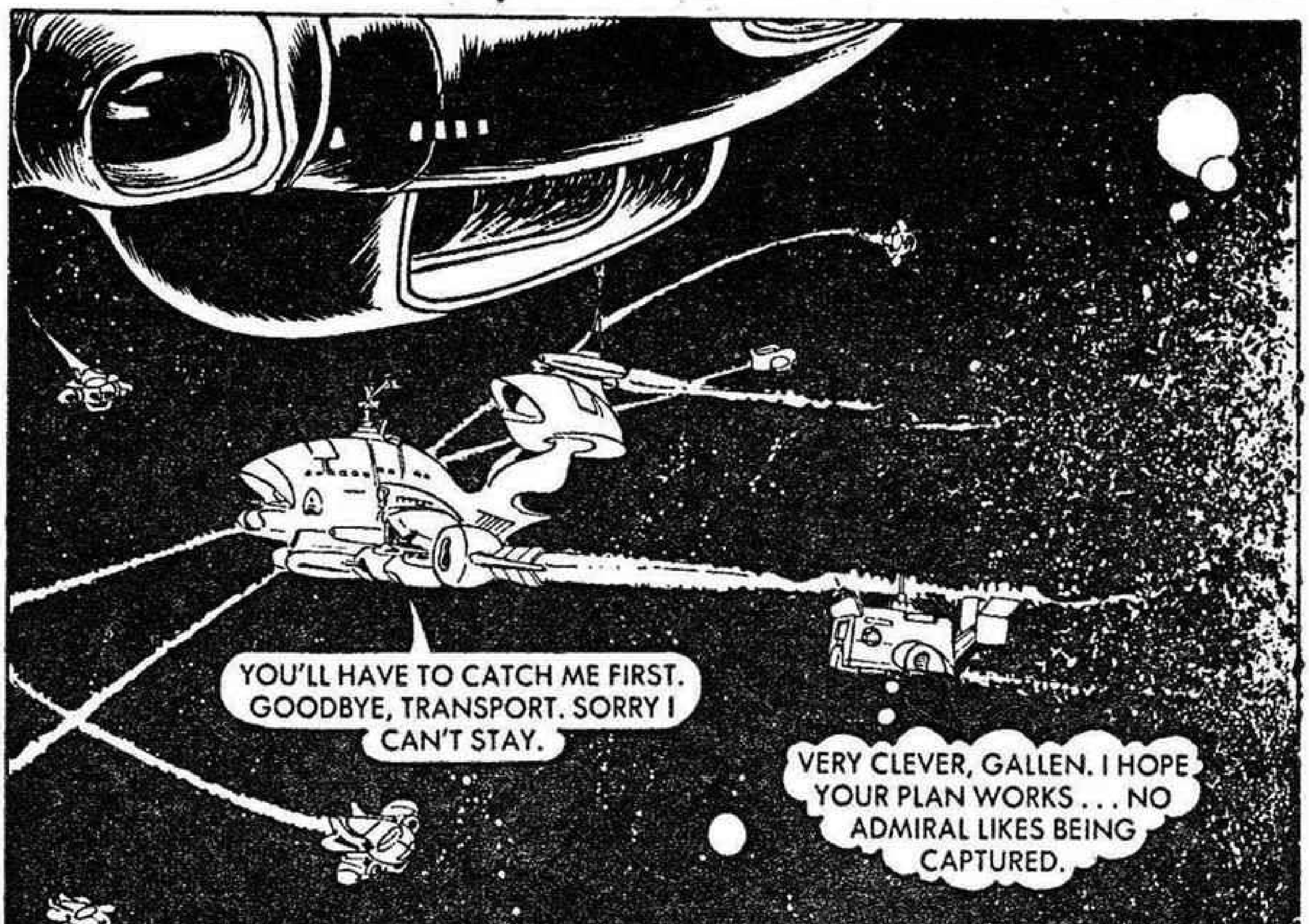

GLAD TO HAVE YOU WITH US, GALLEN.
THANK YOU, ADMIRAL BRANT.


A SPY WAS ALREADY LEAKING THE UNION'S CAREFULLY LAID PLANS.
WOLFHOUND CALLING . . . WOLFHOUND CALLING . . . ADMIRAL BRANT ON MISSION TO DESTINATION PRAXIS . . . ROUTE THROUGH SECTORS 7 AND 31 . . . TRAVELLING IN UNARMED SHIP WITH ONE ESCORT.


IN DEEP SPACE, BATTLECRUISER REVENGE PROWLED RELENTLESSLY.
SHE REALLY IS A BEAUTY, ISN'T SHE.
CONTACTS AT 01·121 . . . CLOSING AT FACTOR 7.


CENTURAI! SOMEONE MUST HAVE KNOWN WE WERE COMING!
WE CAN'T FIGHT ALL THOSE AT ONCE. ONE MIGHT GET THROUGH TO THE TRANSPORT.


TO UNION SHIP, REVENGE. SURRENDER IMMEDIATELY, OR BE REDUCED TO ATOMS! WE KNOW YOU HAVE ADMIRAL BRANT WITH YOU.
WE'LL TRY TO BLUFF OUR WAY OUT BY MAKING THEM THINK THE ADMIRAL'S ON THIS SHIP.


YOU'LL HAVE TO CATCH ME FIRST. GOODBYE, TRANSPORT. SORRY I CAN'T STAY.
VERY CLEVER, GALLEN. I HOPE YOUR PLAN WORKS . . . NO ADMIRAL LIKES BEING CAPTURED.


AS BATTLECRUISER REVENGE SPED AWAY.
SCREEN FULL MAGNIFICATION. ANYTHING?
NOTHING, SIR.
THEY HAVEN'T FALLEN FOR IT. THE CENTURAI MUST HAVE KNOWN WHICH SHIP THE ADMIRAL WAS ON. FULL SPEED BACK TO THE TRANSPORT.
TOO LATE. LOOKS AS IF THEY TRIED TO FIGHT FOR IT.
NO, PETE. THEY WERE UNARMED. THE CENTURAI KNEW THE ADMIRAL WAS ON BOARD THAT SHIP. SEND DOWN A TEAM TO CHECK OUT THE WRECKAGE.

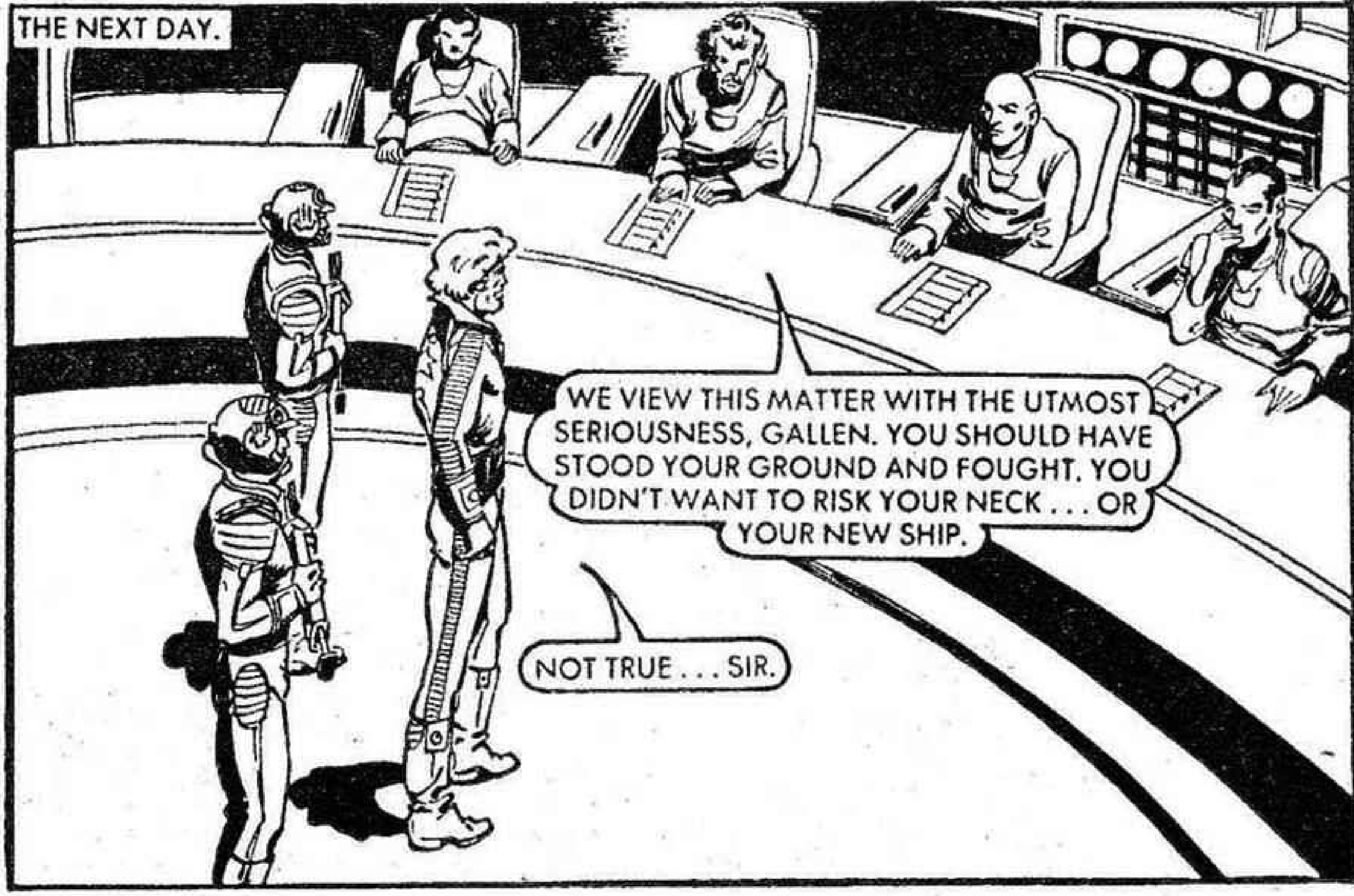

NO BODIES THAT I CAN SEE.
ODD, ISN'T IT?
BACK ON BOARD.
NO BODIES AMONGST THE WRECKAGE, SIR.
THAT MEANS THE WHOLE CREW WAS CAPTURED, THEN THE TRANSPORT DESTROYED.

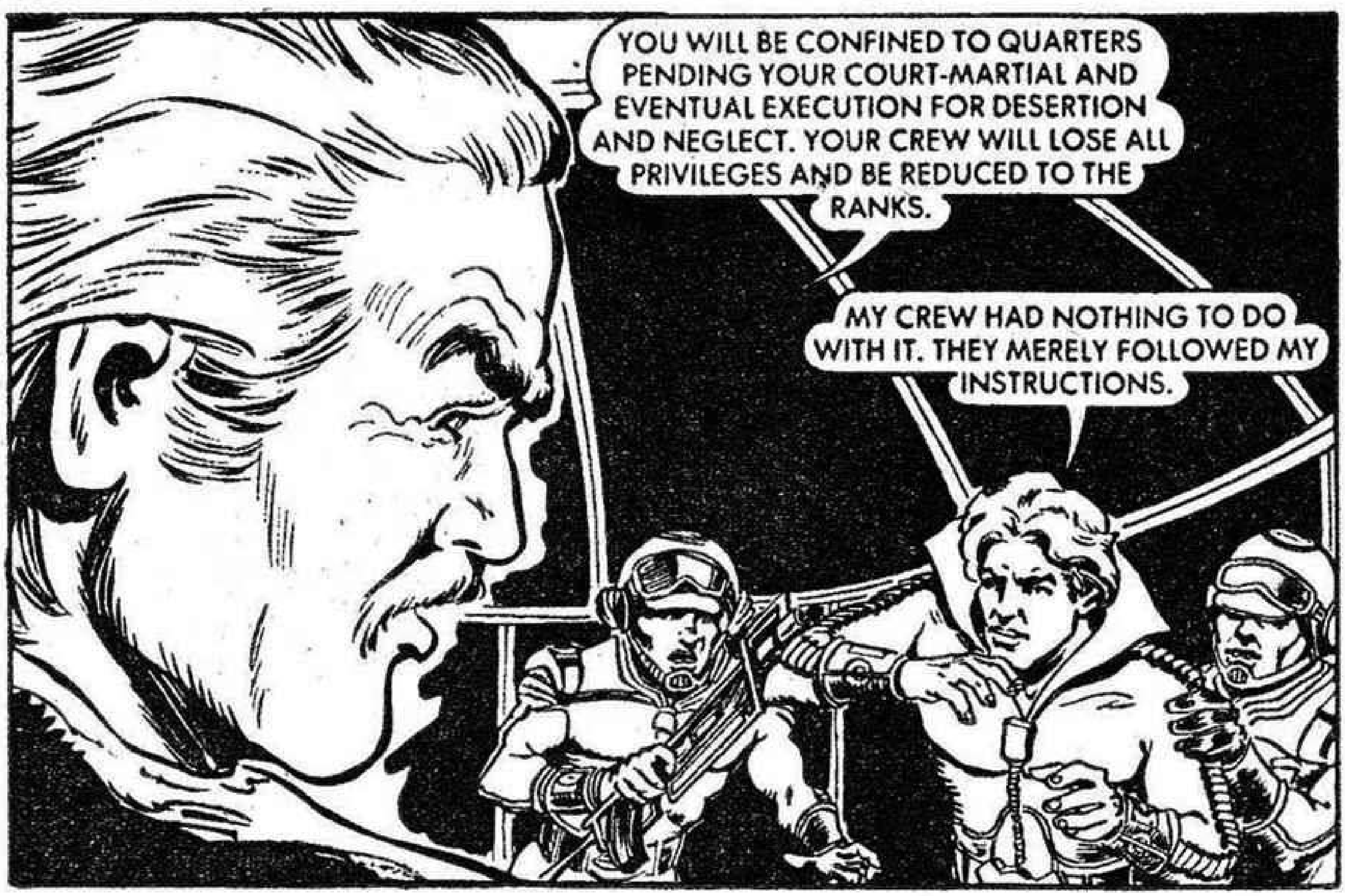

WHAT NEXT? THE ADMIRAL COULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO ANY OF THE CENTURAI COLONIES.
I'M AFRAID IT'S BACK TO THE SPACEPORT. WE'LL REPORT TO THEM.


BATTLECRUISER REVENGE LANDED TWO SPACIALS LATER.
ONLY ONE SHIP! GALLEN HAS SOME EXPLAINING TO DO.


SPACEMARSHAL GREGORY WISHES TO SEE YOU, CAPTAIN GALLEN.
I'M NOT SURPRISED! WELL, HERE GOES!


IN GREGORY'S OFFICE.
. . . BUT THEY WEREN'T TAKEN IN. THE CENTURAI KNEW EXACTLY WHERE TO FIND THE ADMIRAL.
YOU DESERTED YOUR POST. REPORT TO COMMAND OPERATIONS ROOM IN THE MORNING!


THE NEXT DAY.
WE VIEW THIS MATTER WITH THE UTMOST SERIOUSNESS, GALLEN. YOU SHOULD HAVE STOOD YOUR GROUND AND FOUGHT. YOU DIDN'T WANT TO RISK YOUR NECK . . . OR YOUR NEW SHIP.
NOT TRUE . . . SIR.


YOU WILL BE CONFINED TO QUARTERS PENDING YOUR COURT-MARTIAL AND EVENTUAL EXECUTION FOR DESERTION AND NEGLECT. YOUR CREW WILL LOSE ALL PRIVILEGES AND BE REDUCED TO THE RANKS.
MY CREW HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. THEY MERELY FOLLOWED MY INSTRUCTIONS.

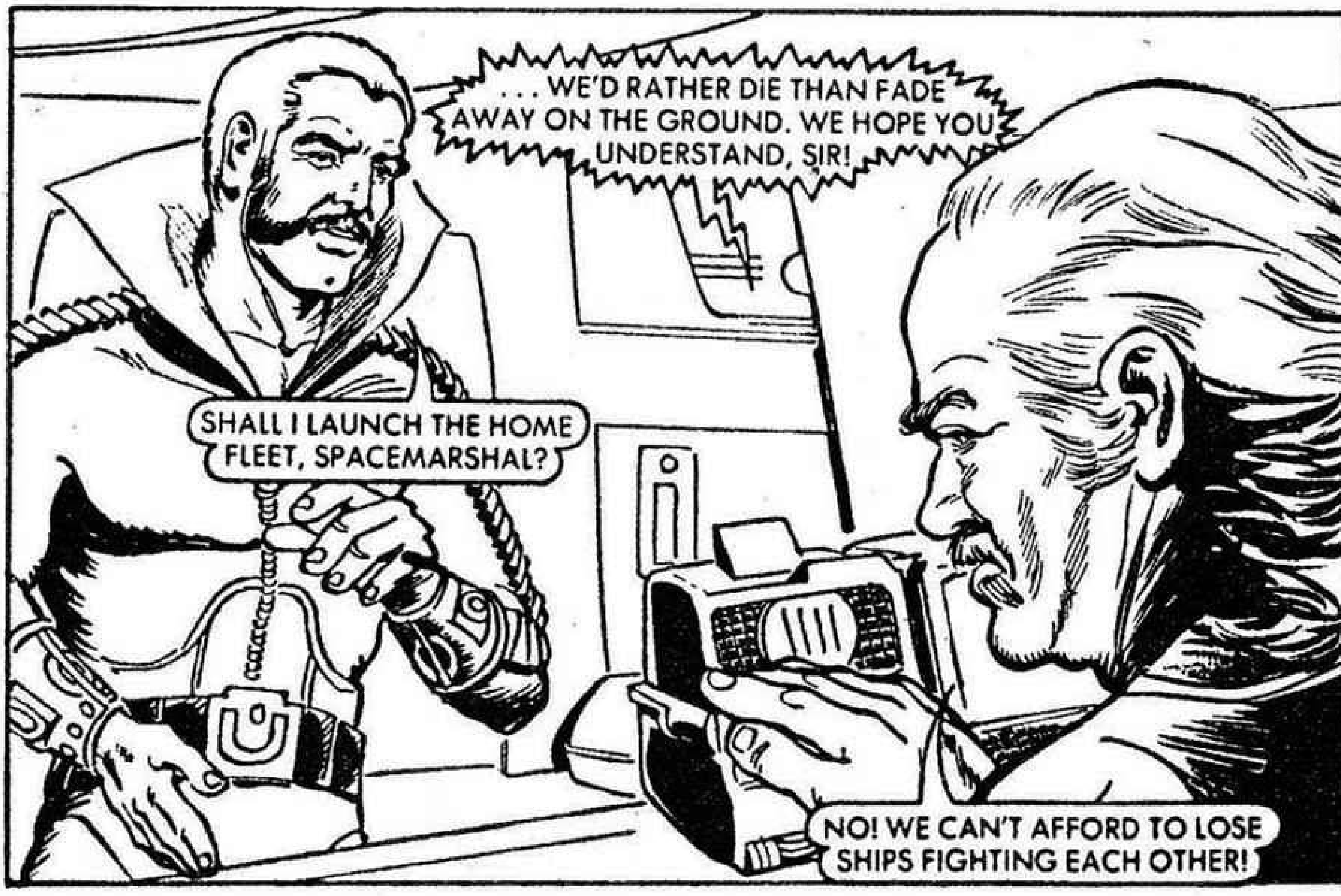

THERE IS NO APPEAL AGAINST THE COURT'S DECISON.
IT LOOKS LIKE CURTAINS FOR ME, AND THE END FOR MY CREW. NOBODY WILL HAVE THEM NOW.


TWO OF JERRY'S OFFICERS WERE GIVEN PERMISSION TO VISIT HIM.
THEY JUST WOULDN'T LISTEN.
WE'VE ALL BEEN BRANDED COWARDS.
COME AND SIT DOWN. I'VE AN IDEA!
IF WE DO NOTHING YOU'LL END UP ROTTING IN SOME BACKWATER. I'M CERTAIN TO BE EXECUTED . . . SO WHAT DO YOU SAY TO GOING AFTER BRANT IN THE REVENGE?
IF WE FAIL, IT'S THE CHOP FOR ALL OF US . . . BUT AT LEAST WE'LL HAVE DIED TRYING TO PROVE OURSELVES RIGHT.
WE'RE WITH YOU.
I'LL FIND A WAY TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE. WE'LL TAKE THE REVENGE TONIGHT.


ALTHOUGH TELEPORTING WAS DANGEROUS, IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO GET JERRY OUT UNDETECTED. FROM UNDER HIS GUARDS' NOSES HE WAS TRANSPORTED TO A HANGAR WHERE HIS CREW WAITED.
WE'VE LITTLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS, BUT IT'S BETTER THAN DISGRACE HERE! WHAT DO YOU SAY?
WE'RE WITH YOU, CAPTAIN.


THE CREW EASILY BOARDED REVENGE.
OKAY . . . PLOT A COURSE FOR SECTOR A7. COMMENCE LIFT OFF SEQUENCE.

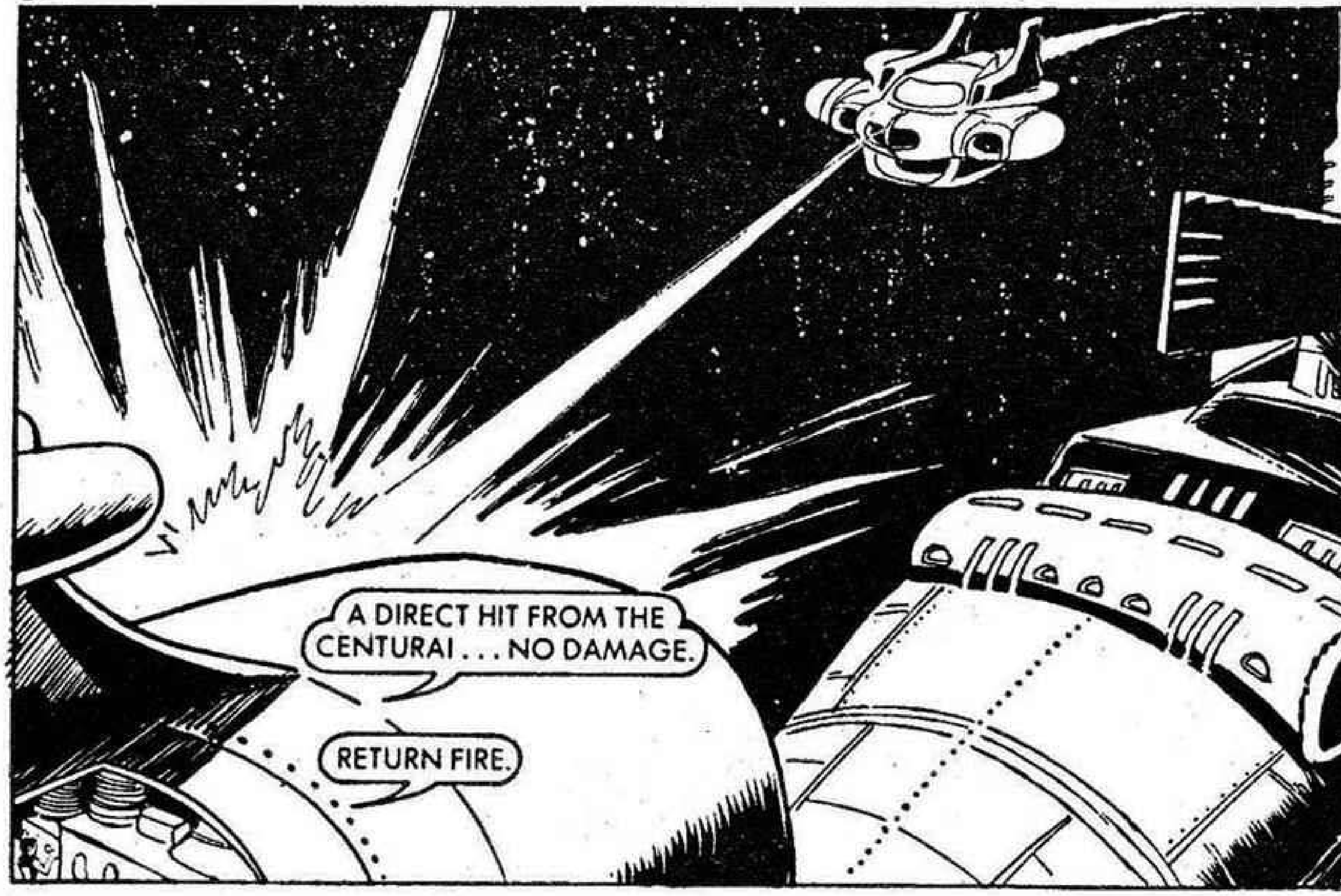

CONTACT THE SPACEMARSHAL AND TELL HIM WHAT WE'RE DOING.


. . . WE'D RATHER DIE THAN FADE AWAY ON THE GROUND. WE HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND, SIR!
SHALL I LAUNCH THE HOME FLEET, SPACEMARSHAL?
NO! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE SHIPS FIGHTING EACH OTHER!

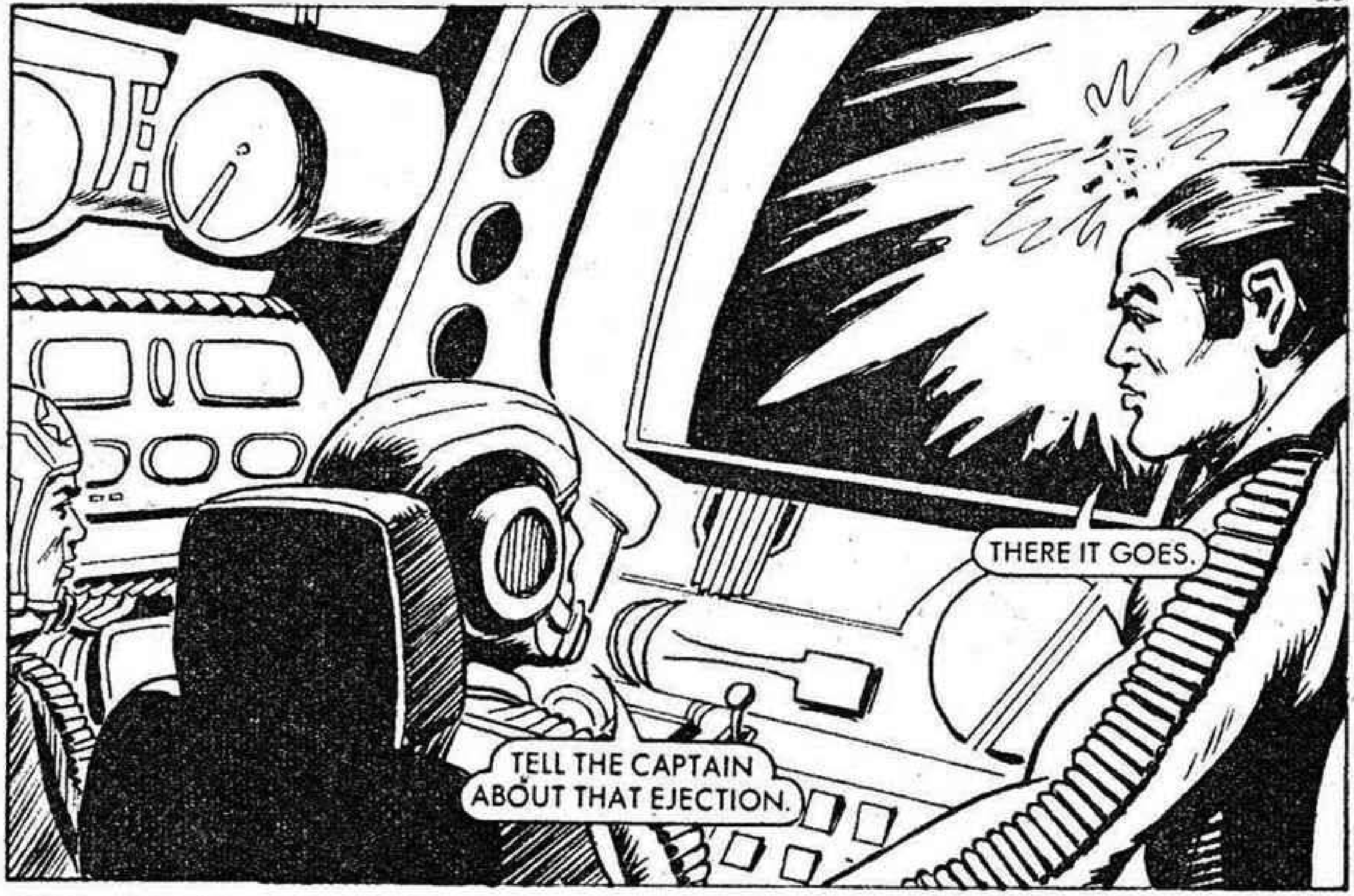

I RECKON OUR BEST BET'S TO SEE IF THERE'S ANY CLUE TO WHERE THE ADMIRAL WAS TAKEN.
WE'VE NO OTHER LEADS AT ALL! SET A COURSE FOR THE WRECKAGE.


ATTENTION! HOSTILE VESSEL AT 2X 1·21. FORCE-FIELDS HAVE BEEN RAISED.
TELL THEM TO SURRENDER, SPARKS.

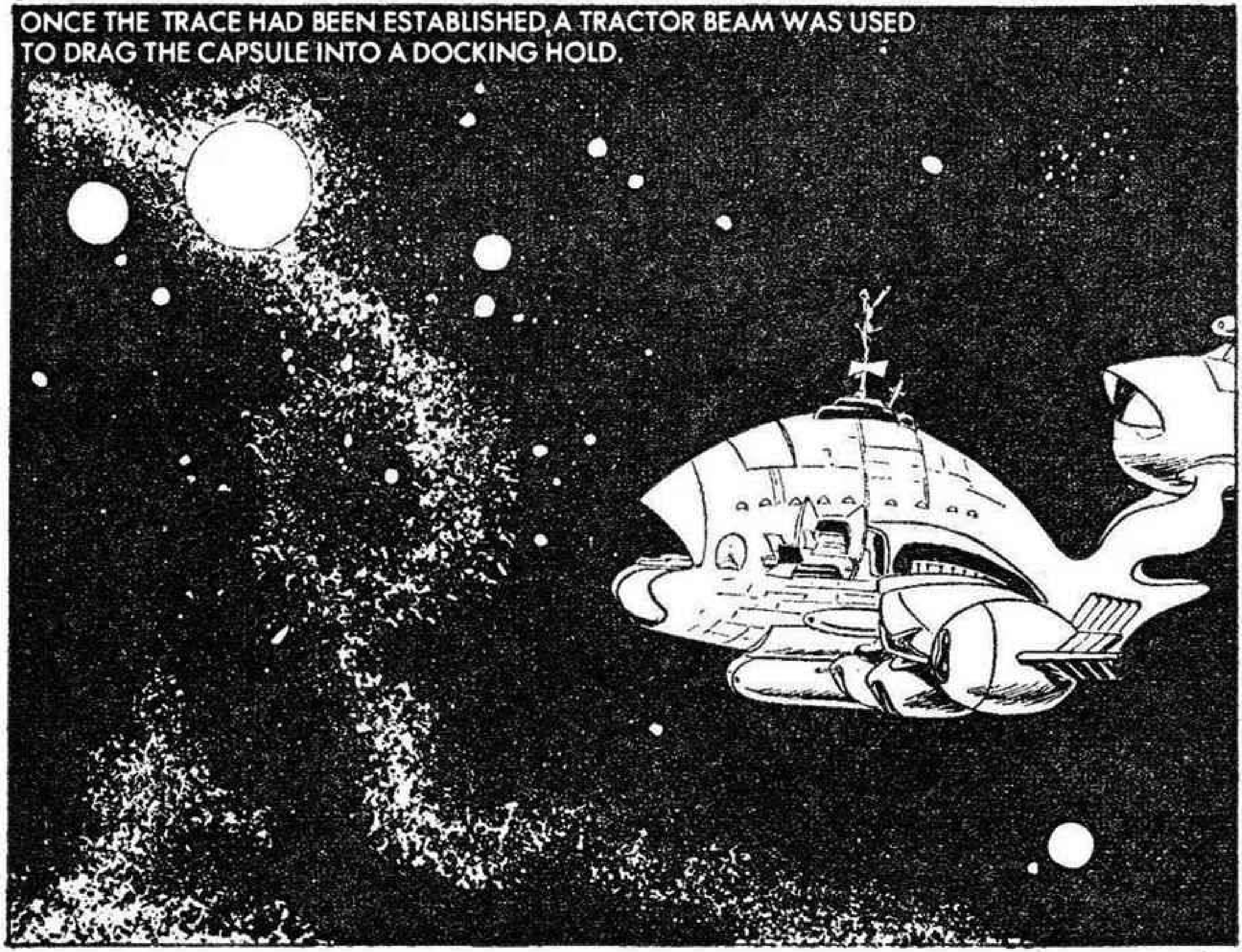

A SHIP OF CENTURAI SURRENDER? NEVER! YOU SHALL DIE FOR YOUR CHEEK.


A DIRECT HIT FROM THE CENTURAI . . . NO DAMAGE.
RETURN FIRE.


SHE'S HIT. SHE'LL GO ANY SECOND NOW!
SOMETHING'S BEEN EJECTED.

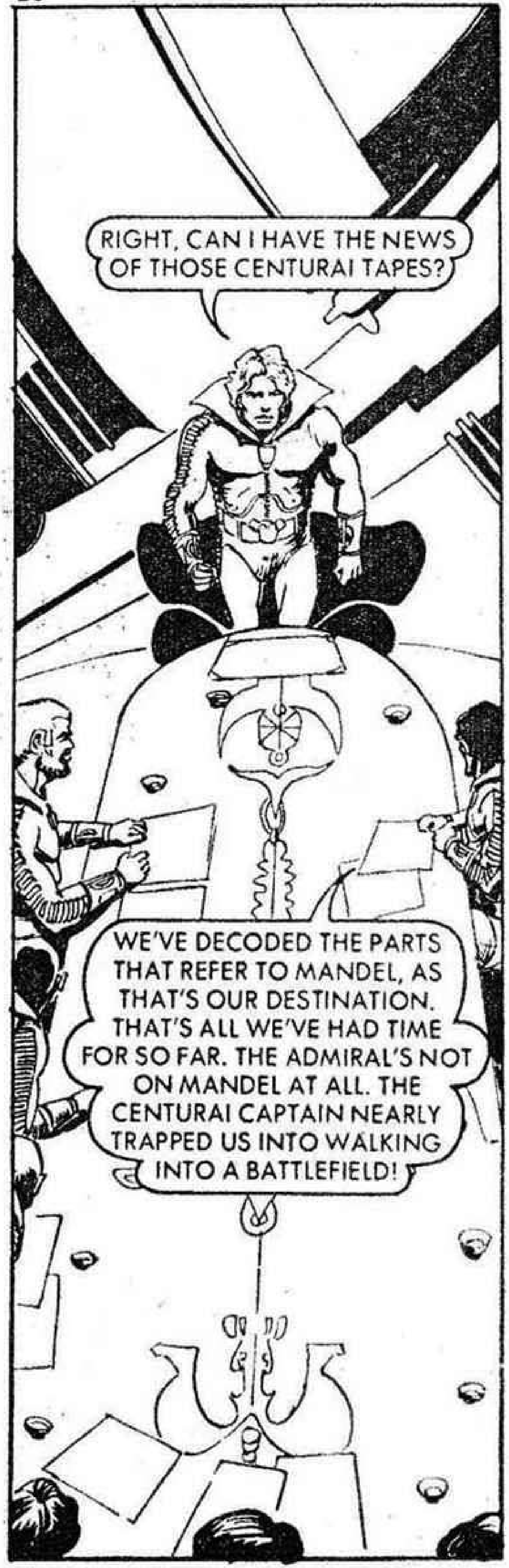

THERE IT GOES.
TELL THE CAPTAIN ABOUT THAT EJECTION.

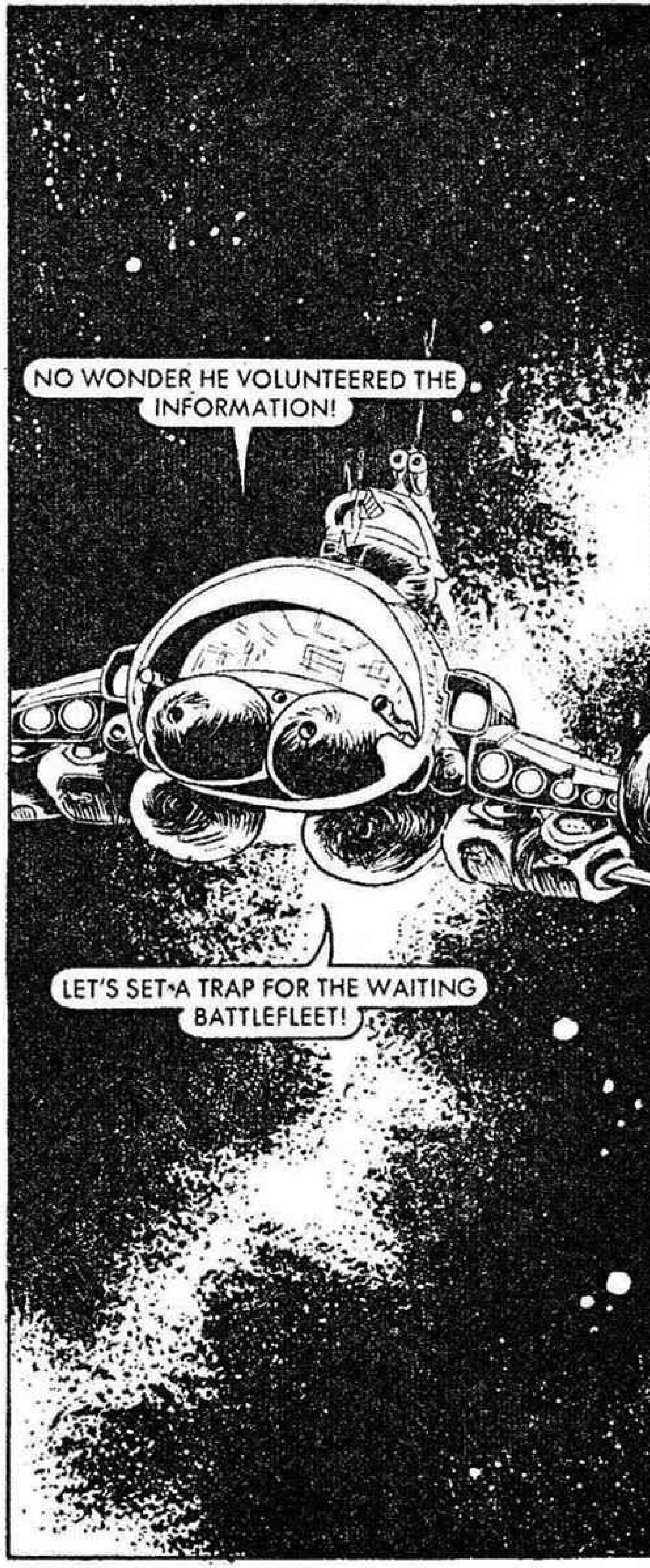

JERRY LISTENED TO THE OFFICER.
SCANNERS ON MAXIMUM. IT CAN'T HAVE GOT FAR!

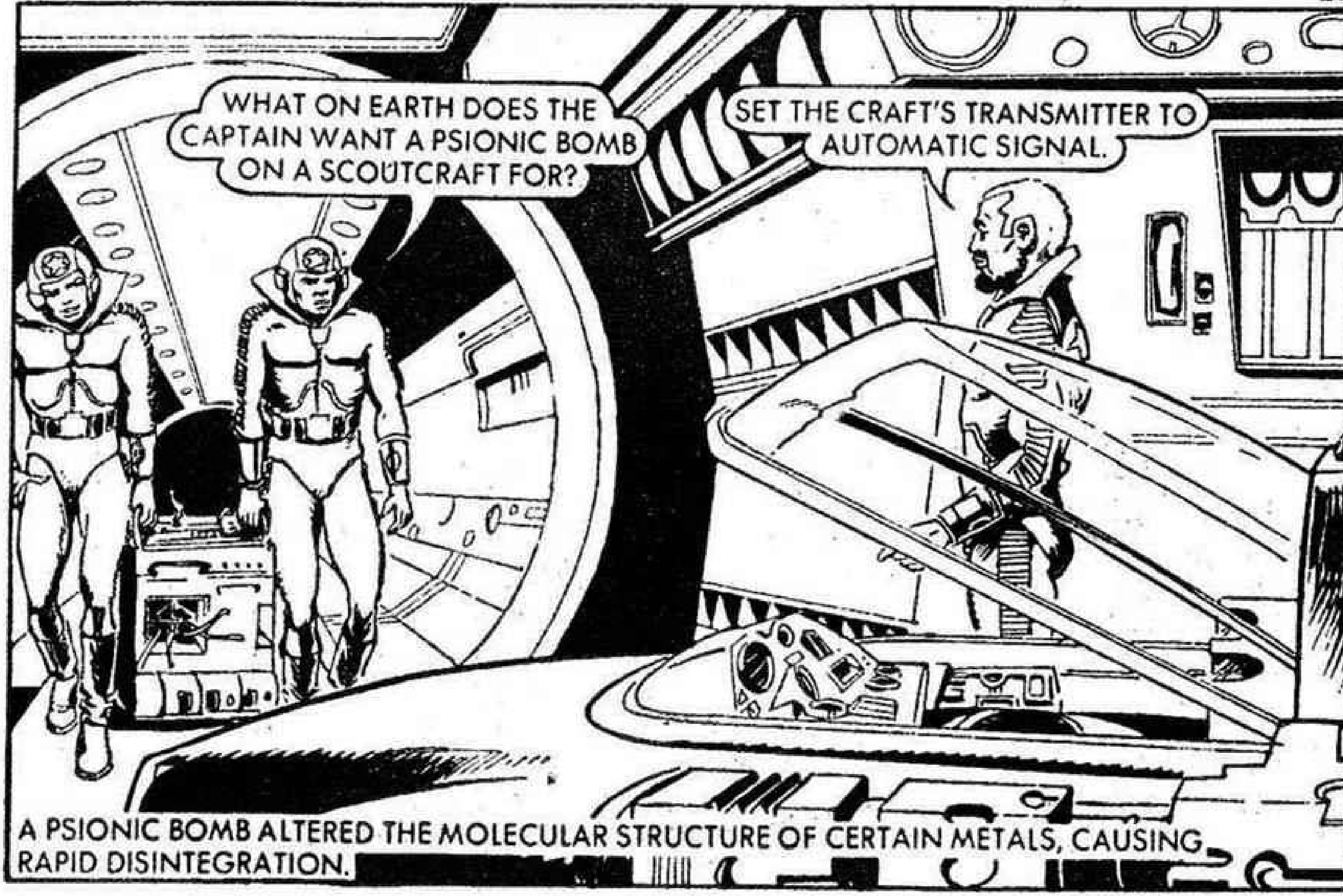

ONCE THE TRACE HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED, A TRACTOR BEAM WAS USED TO DRAG THE CAPSULE INTO A DOCKING HOLD.

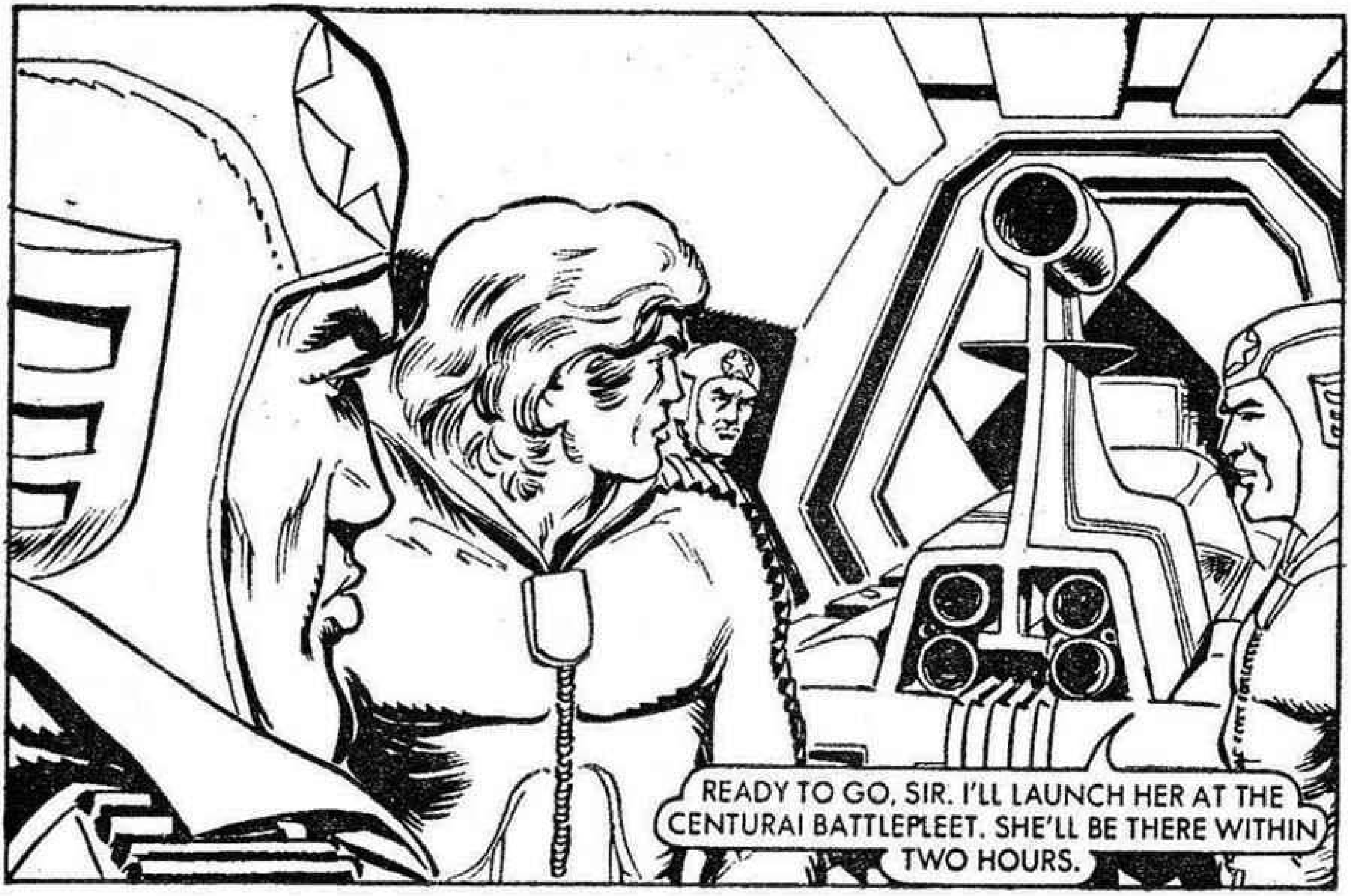

TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF ME, UNIONIST PIG!
A COWARDLY CENTURAI . . . HE RAN AWAY WHILE HIS MATES STAYED TO FIGHT.

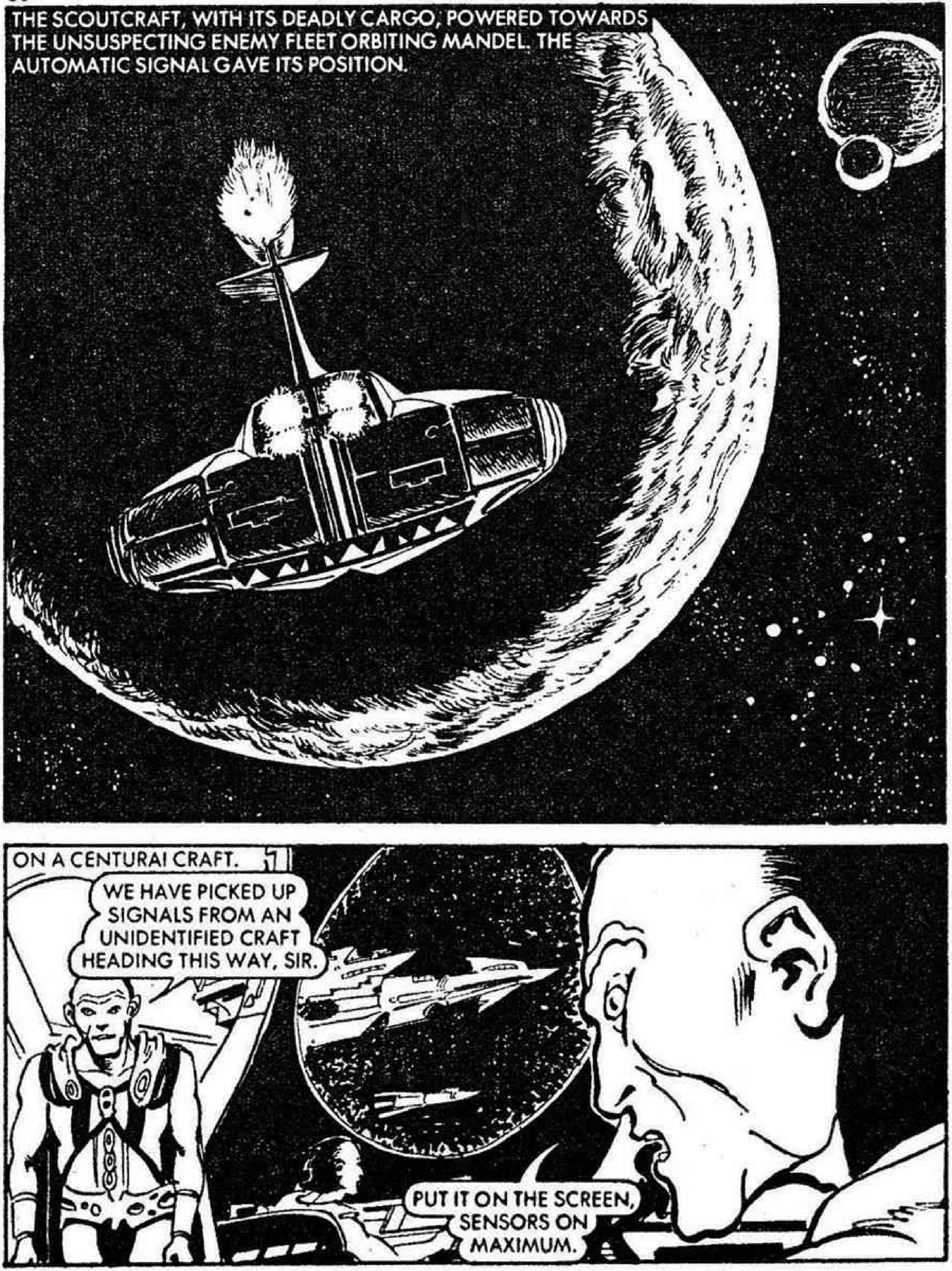

YOU WILL REGRET THAT REMARK WHEN THE UNION IS ABSORBED INTO THE CENTURAI EMPIRE!
I DOUBT IT. WHY DID YOU FLEE WITH THESE COMPUTER FILES?
THAT IS OF NO CONSEQUENCE. HOWEVER, I KNOW THAT YOU'RE AFTER ADMIRAL BRANT. YOU CAN FORGET ALL ABOUT HIM. HE'S ON MANDEL 4— GUARDED BY THE CRACK 4TH SPACE FLEET.
TAKE HIM AWAY LIEUTENANT, AND SEE THESE TAPES ARE DECODED!
EARLY THE NEXT SPACIAL, JERRY WAS AWAKENED.
SIR, TWO MESSAGES FROM THE BRIDGE! WE'RE DUE OUT OF LIGHT DRIVE IN AN HOUR, AND WE'VE BROKEN THE COMPUTER TAPES.
THANK YOU, PLEASE ASK THE OFFICERS TO ASSEMBLE IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM.


RIGHT, CAN I HAVE THE NEWS OF THOSE CENTURAI TAPES?
WE'VE DECODED THE PARTS THAT REFER TO MANDEL, AS THAT'S OUR DESTINATION. THAT'S ALL WE'VE HAD TIME FOR SO FAR. THE ADMIRAL'S NOT ON MANDEL AT ALL. THE CENTURAI CAPTAIN NEARLY TRAPPED US INTO WALKING INTO A BATTLEFIELD!


NO WONDER HE VOLUNTEERED THE INFORMATION!
LET'S SET A TRAP FOR THE WAITING BATTLEFLEET!

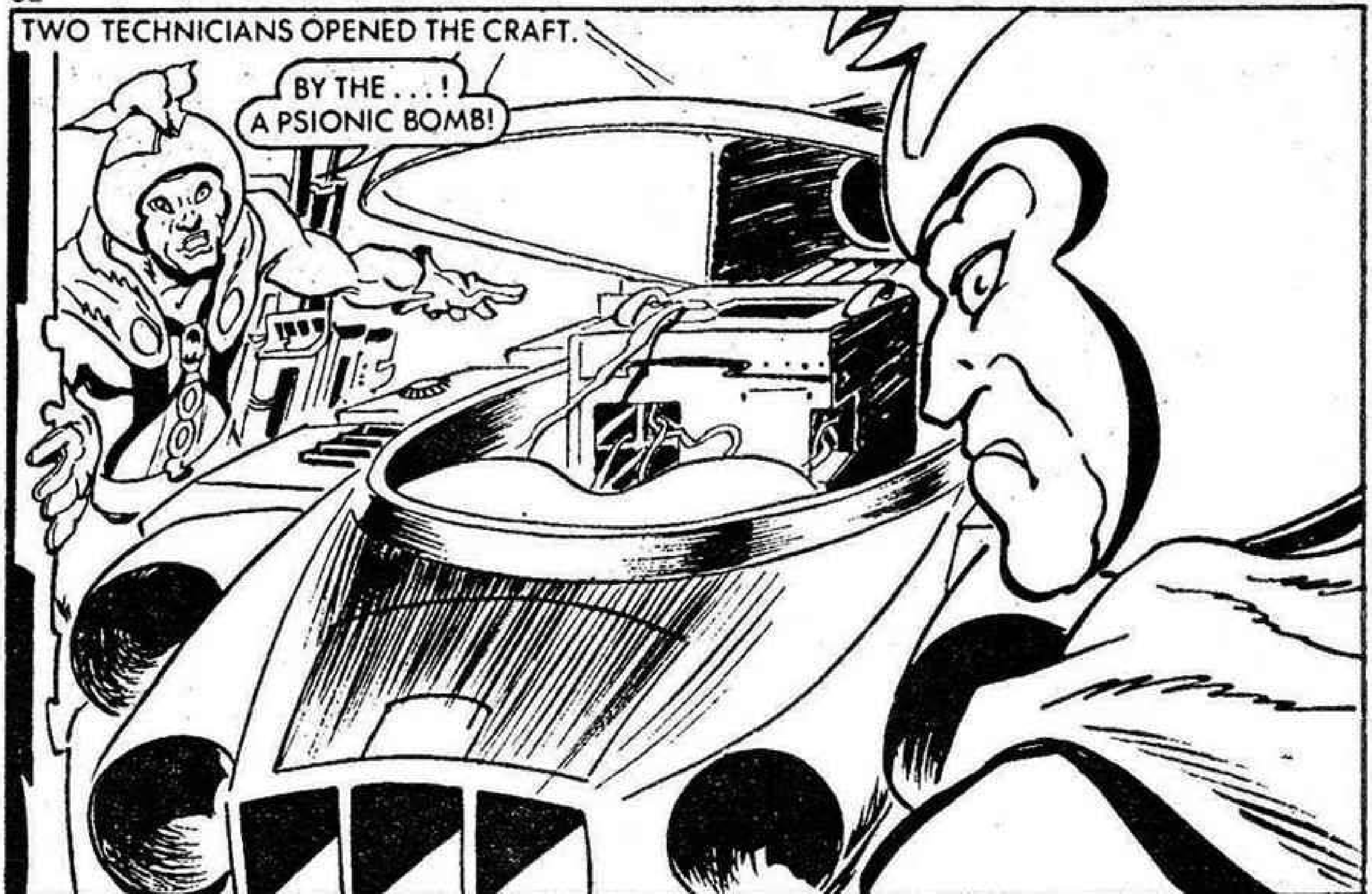

WHAT ON EARTH DOES THE CAPTAIN WANT A PSIONIC BOMB ON A SCOUTCRAFT FOR?
SET THE CRAFT'S TRANSMITTER TO AUTOMATIC SIGNAL.
A PSIONIC BOMB ALTERED THE MOLECULAR STRUCTURE OF CERTAIN METALS, CAUSING RAPID DISINTEGRATION.


READY TO GO, SIR. I'LL LAUNCH HER AT THE CENTURAI BATTLEFLEET. SHE'LL BE THERE WITHIN TWO HOURS.


THE SCOUTCRAFT, WITH ITS DEADLY CARGO, POWERED TOWARDS THE UNSUSPECTING ENEMY FLEET ORBITING MANDEL. THE AUTOMATIC SIGNAL GAVE ITS POSITION.
ON A CENTURAI CRAFT.
WE HAVE PICKED UP SIGNALS FROM AN UNIDENTIFIED CRAFT HEADING THIS WAY, SIR.
PUT IT ON THE SCREEN, SENSORS ON MAXIMUM.


SCANNERS SHOW NO LIFE ON BOARD!
IT'S A UNION CRAFT. BRING HER IN. IT MAY YIELD USEFUL INFORMATION.


CHECK IT OUT. KEEP IT AWAY FROM THIS SHIP UNTIL YOU'VE DONE IT!


TWO TECHNICIANS OPENED THE CRAFT.
BY THE . . . ! A PSIONIC BOMB!


SIR, WE'VE BEEN TRICKED . . . THERE'S A BOMB ON THE SCOUTCRAFT!
WHAT!


BUT OPENING THE HATCH HAD TRIGGERED THE DETONATING MECHANISM.


THE PSIONIC BOMB SET UP A CHAIN OF EXPLOSIONS.
WHAT A SHOW! THAT MUST BE ONE OF THE LARGEST LOSSES THE CENTURAI HAVE EVER TAKEN!
WE'VE STILL GOT TO FIND THE ADMIRAL!


LOAD AN INFO-ROCKET WITH A REPORT. SEND A COPY OF THE CENTURAI CODE AND GET IT OFF TO COMMAND. HAVE YOU FOUND WHERE THE ADMIRAL IS YET?
YES, JERRY, AND YOU WON'T LIKE IT!
ON CENTURAI ITSELF?


YES! RIGHT ON THEIR HOME PLANET!
HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET HIM OUT OF THERE?
I DON'T KNOW. BUT WE'VE GOT TO TRY. PUT ME THROUGH TO THE CREW!


ADMIRAL BRANT IS HELD ON CENTURAI. WE MUST TRY AND FREE HIM!
THIS WILL BE PROBABLY THE MOST HAZARDOUS TRIP ANY UNION MEN HAVE HAD TO UNDERTAKE . . .
. . . AND WE MIGHT NOT MAKE IT BACK. GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL!
RATHER DIE FIGHTING THAN ROT ON THE GROUND!


THE ADMIRAL IS HELD AT THE MAIN MILITARY SPACEPORT NEAR THEIR CAPITAL, CENTURIOUS. BRING US OUT OF LIGHT DRIVE AS NEAR TO THERE AS YOU CAN.
YES, PERHAPS THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE WILL HELP US. IT'S ABOUT THE ONLY THING WE'VE GOT!
THE REVENGE CAME OUT OF LIGHT DRIVE—RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CENTURAI FLEET.
LOOK! A UNION SHIP!
ADMIRAL TORG CALLING ALL SHIPS. I WANT EVERY WEAPON IN THE FLEET TRAINED ON THAT SHIP!



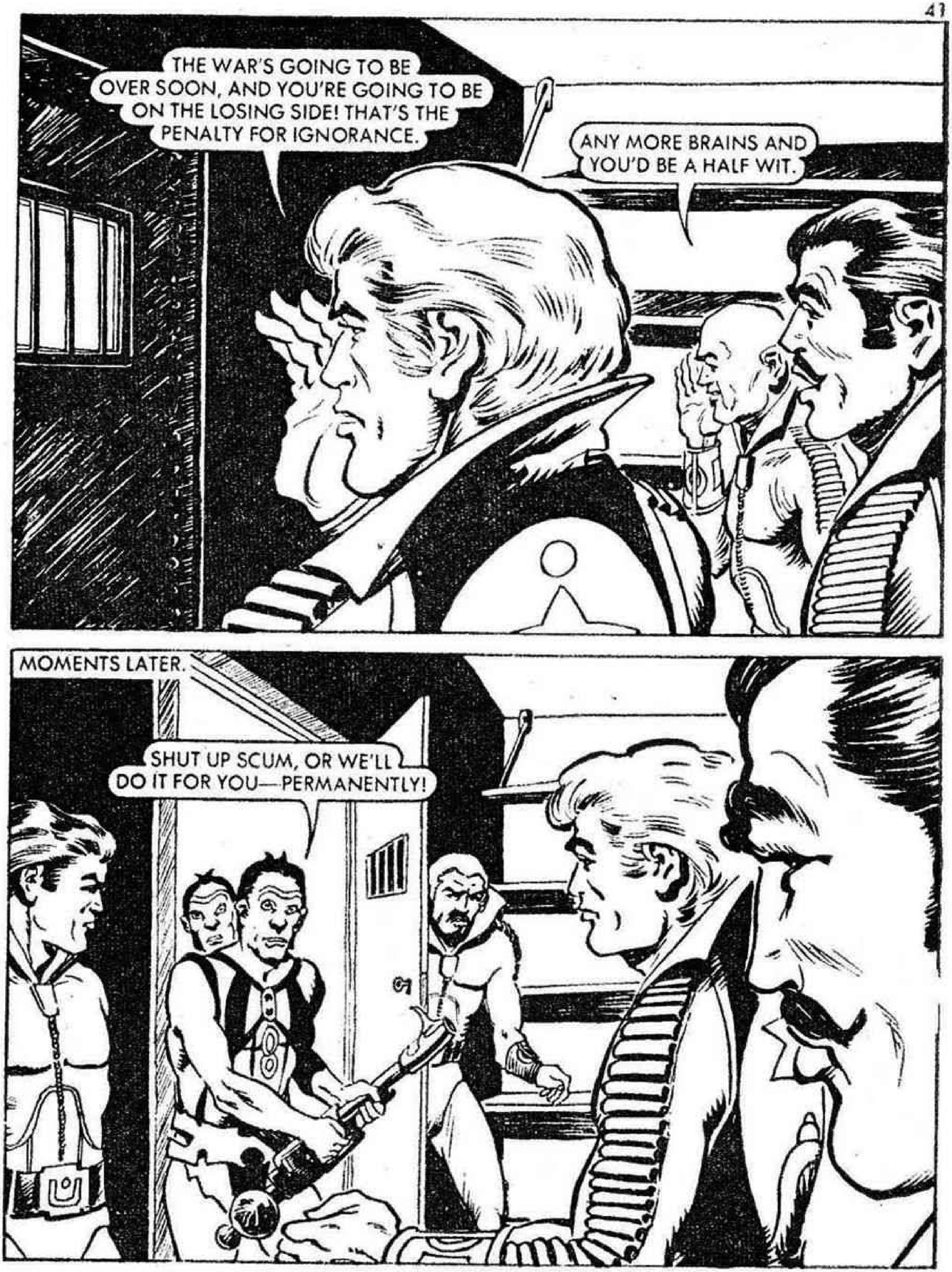


THE CREW OF THE REVENGE WERE TAKEN TO THE MAIN MILITARY BASE.




GALLEN WAS TAKEN TO THE PRISON GOVERNOR FOR QUESTIONING.
IT WILL BE BETTER FOR BOTH YOU AND YOUR CREW IF YOU TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT UNION DEFENCES . . . AFTER ALL IT DOESN'T MATTER TO YOU ANY MORE, DOES IT?
GALLEN . . . CAPTAIN . . . SERIAL NUMBER 2061956 . . . UNDER THE ARTICLES OF THE GALACTIC CONVENTION, THAT IS ALL I AM OBLIGED TO TELL YOU.
VERY WELL, FOOL! YOU CAN JOIN YOUR PRECIOUS ADMIRAL IN THE CELLS. WE'LL EXTRACT ALL WE NEED FROM YOU IN THE MORNING. VERY, VERY PAINFULLY!


JERRY JOINED THE REST OF HIS CREW.
HELLO, LADS!
THE ADMIRAL'S IN ONE OF THESE CELLS, ALTHOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE. THEY ARE GOING TO TORTURE US FOR INFORMATION, IN THE MORNING. SO . . .
WE'LL TRY AND DRAW THE GUARDS IN HERE. YOU KNOW HOW PROUD THEY ARE— THEY MIGHT BE STUPID ENOUGH TO COME IN IF WE INSULT THEM.


THE WAR'S GOING TO BE OVER SOON, AND YOU'RE GOING TO BE ON THE LOSING SIDE! THAT'S THE PENALTY FOR IGNORANCE.
ANY MORE BRAINS AND YOU'D BE A HALF WIT.
MOMENTS LATER.
SHUT UP SCUM, OR WE'LL DO IT FOR YOU—PERMANENTLY!


TAKE THAT, UGLY!


RIGHT! LET'S FIND THE GUARDS' QUARTERS!
IF WE CAN FIND THE CELL CODE-KEYS, WE CAN FREE THE WHOLE CREW!

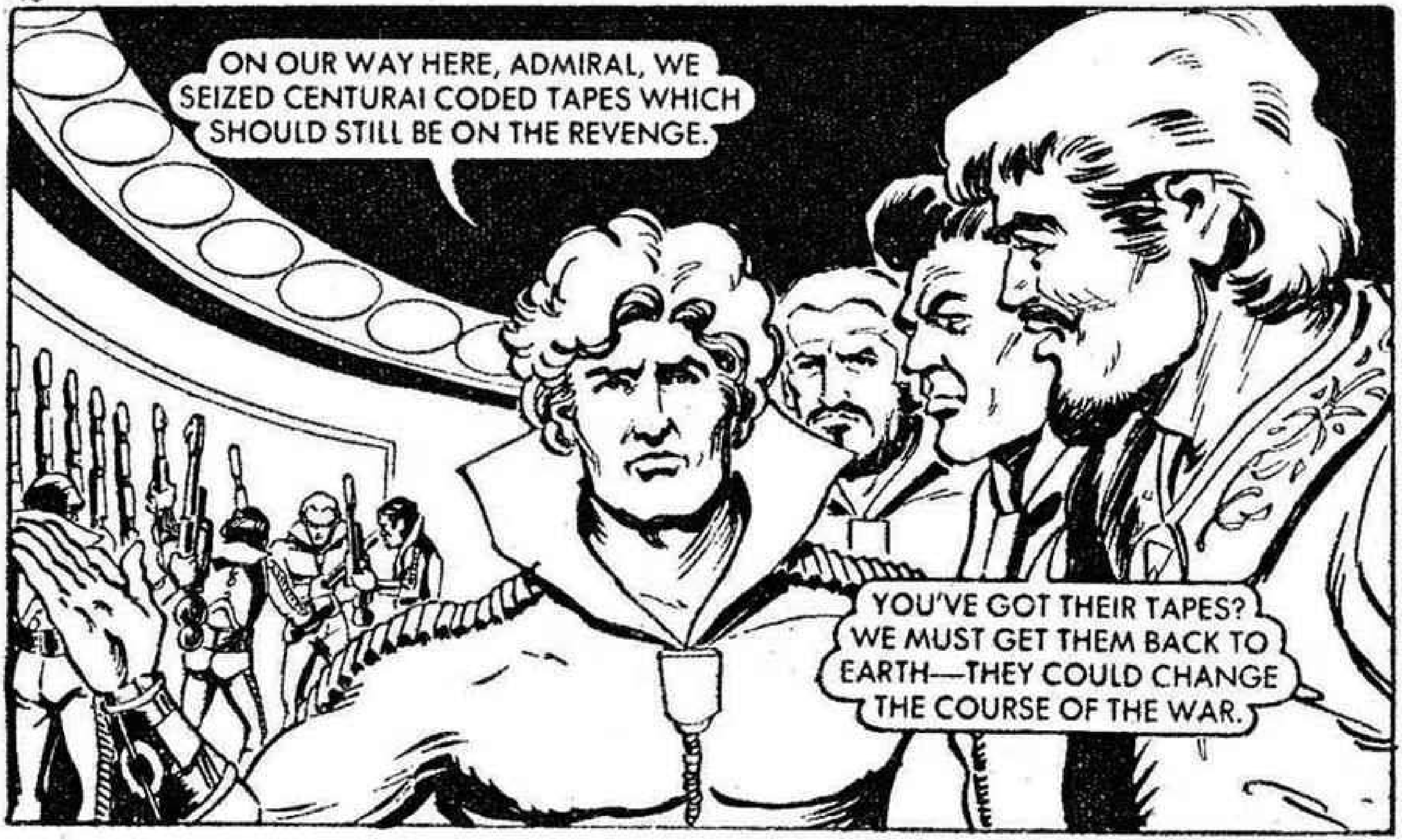

THE UNIONISTS CAUGHT THE GUARDS UNAWARES.
WHAT THE . . .
NOW FOR THE CELL CODES!

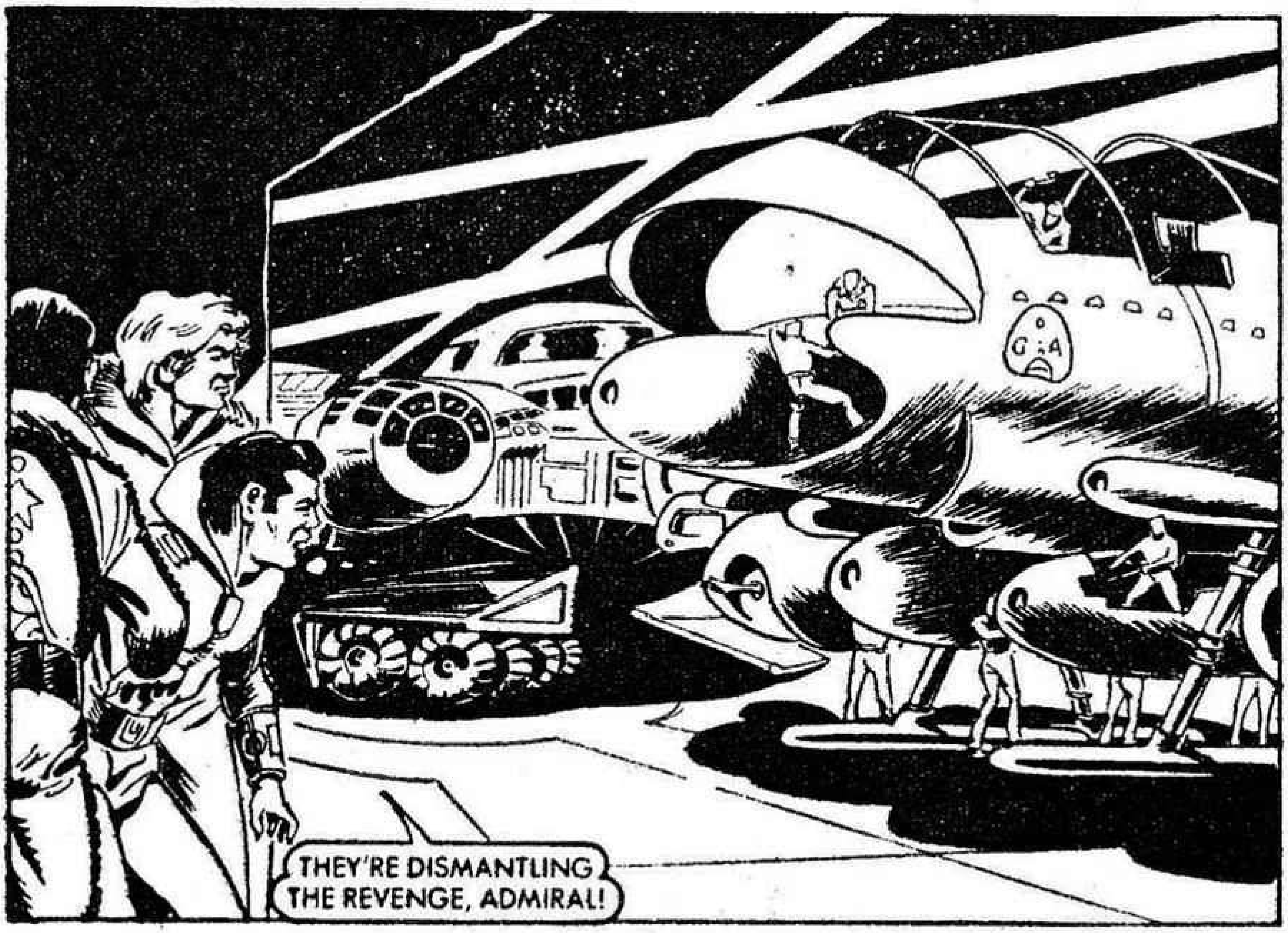

GALLEN? HOW DID YOU GET HERE?
I'LL EXPLAIN IT ALL LATER, ADMIRAL. IT'S A LONG STORY!


IN THE NEXT CELL.
GOOD HEAVENS! PRAXIS SENATORS, ADMIRAL! THEY'RE MEANT TO BE NEUTRAL!
GENTLEMEN! HOW DELIGHTED WE ARE TO SEE YOU.
ADMIRAL BRANT, I PRESUME. I SEE THE ACCURSED CENTURAI TOOK YOU TOO!


THE SENATORS EXPLAINED.
WHILE ON A PEACE MISSION HERE, WE DISCOVERED A PLAN TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK ON PRAXIS BEFORE THEY ABSORBED US INTO THEIR EMPIRE. THIS IS THE FIRST STEP TO CONQUER EARTH. THAT IS WHY THE ADMIRAL WAS CAPTURED. AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME HE WOULD HAVE BEEN DRAINED OF ALL HIS INFORMATION.


I SUGGEST WE ARM WHAT MEN WE CAN AND FIGHT OUR WAY OUT.
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO REACH THE REVENGE, SIR.


ON OUR WAY HERE, ADMIRAL, WE SEIZED CENTURAI CODED TAPES WHICH SHOULD STILL BE ON THE REVENGE.
YOU'VE GOT THEIR TAPES? WE MUST GET THEM BACK TO EARTH—THEY COULD CHANGE THE COURSE OF THE WAR.


THEY'RE DISMANTLING THE REVENGE, ADMIRAL!


LOOK OVER THERE, GALLEN. A CENTURAI BATTLECRUISER. RECKON YOUR CREW COULD FLY HER?
IF WE HAD THE TAPES FROM THE REVENGE. THEY'VE GOT THE NECESSARY CENTURAI CODES ON THEM!


WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE FAST. WE'VE BEEN LUCKY THE ALARM HASN'T BEEN RAISED YET.


WE'LL TAKE HALF A DOZEN MEN AND SEIZE THE CONTROL TOWER. ANOTHER DOZEN MEN CAN GET THE TAPES FROM THE REVENGE, AND GO TO THE BATTLECRUISER. THEY'LL HARDLY BE EXPECTING AN ATTACK, SO THEY'LL ALL BE LIGHTLY GUARDED . . .

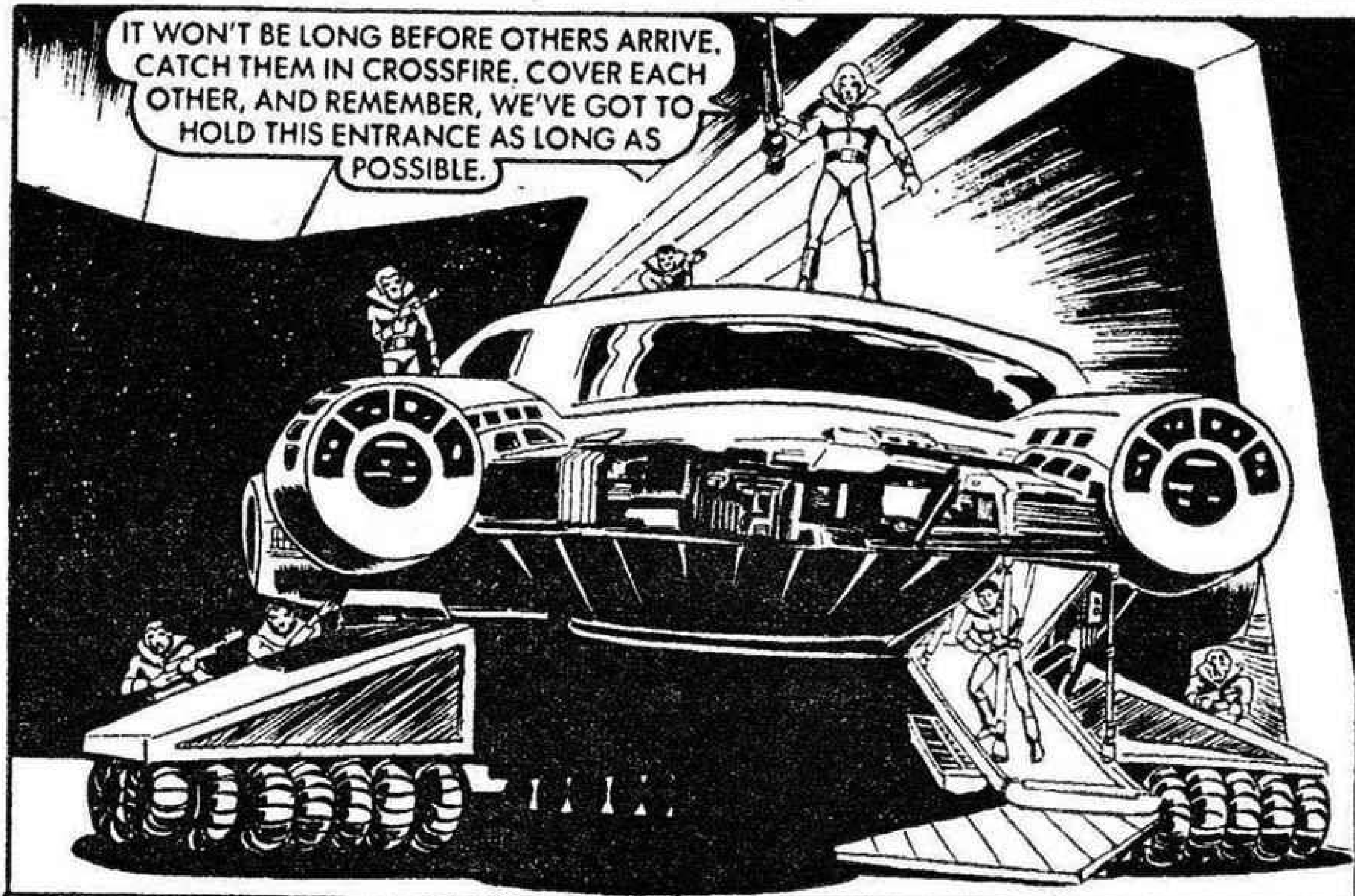

MEANWHILE, I'LL TAKE THE REST OF THE MEN IN THAT TROOP TRANSPORT AND STORM THIS BASE'S ONLY ENTRANCE. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO HOLD OUT LONG ENOUGH FOR YOU TO WORK OUT THE CONTROLS.


SOME OF THE REVENGE'S CREW STORMED ABOARD.
NOW LET'S GET THOSE TAPES!
TOO LATE . . . I HAVE SENT A WARN . . .


JERRY WAS IN A WAR TRACTOR.
WE'RE IN COMMAND OF THE CONTROL TOWER. KING HAS GOT THE TAPES FROM THE REVENGE AND IS ON HIS WAY TO THE BATTLECRUISER.
LET'S HIT THOSE GUARDS AT THE ENTRANCE.


ONE THING, GALLEN, ONE OF THE CONTROLLERS ALERTED THE ENTRANCE GUARDS, SO EXPECT A WARM RECEPTION!
THANKS ADMIRAL . . . HERE GOES!

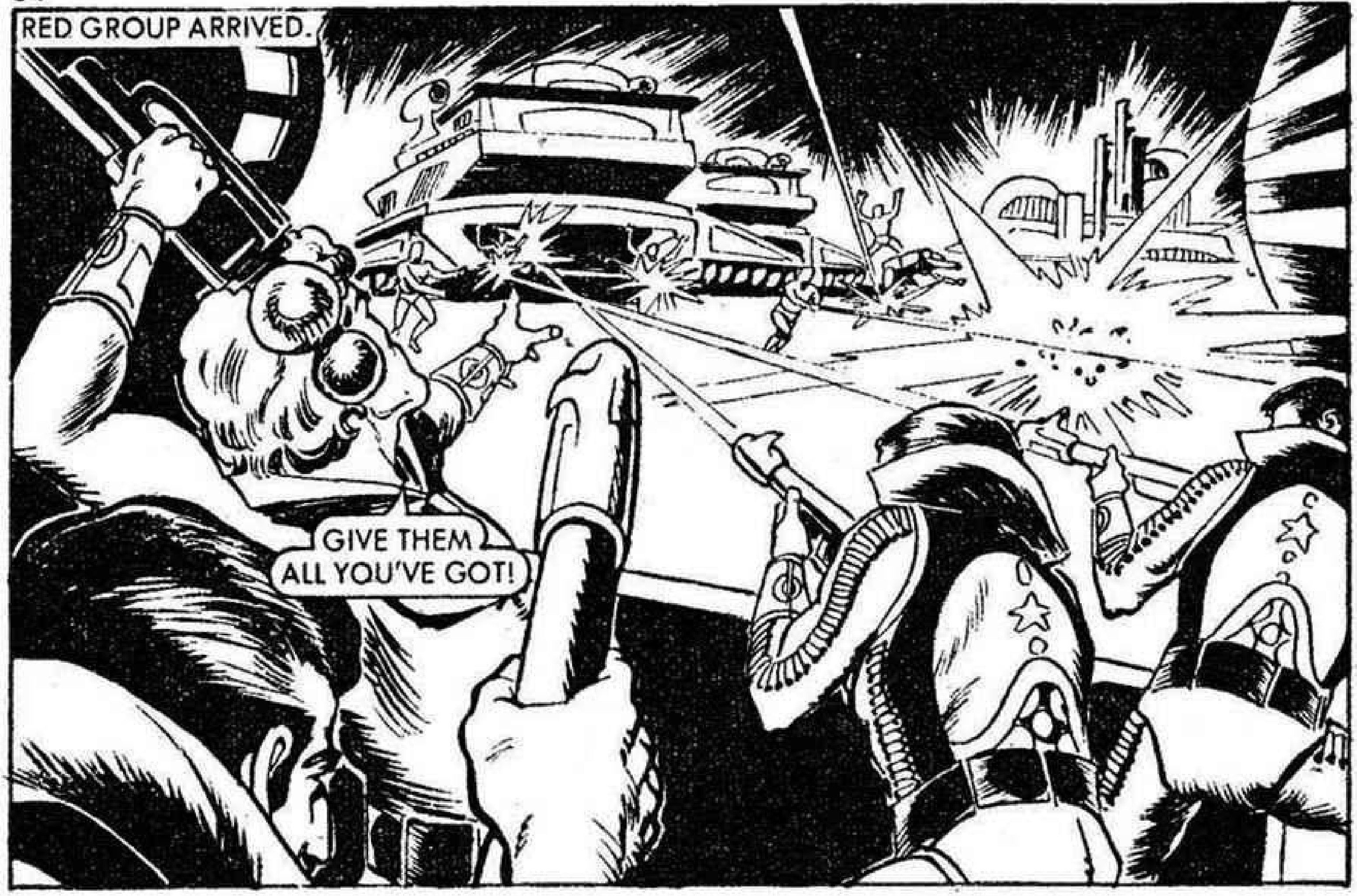

THE CENTURAI DIDN'T LAST LONG!


IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE OTHERS ARRIVE. CATCH THEM IN CROSSFIRE. COVER EACH OTHER, AND REMEMBER, WE'VE GOT TO HOLD THIS ENTRANCE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.


OKAY, ADMIRAL. WE'VE SECURED THE ENTRANCE, AND THE MEN ARE IN POSITION.
SO FAR, SO GOOD. BUT . . .
. . . THE COMMANDER AT THE LOCAL BASE HAS NOW BEEN ALERTED. EXPECT THINGS TO WARM UP!


AT THE CENTURAI MILITARY BASE.
THE PRISONERS ARE RUNNING LOOSE AT THE SPACEPORT. TAKE RED GROUP AND CRUSH THEM!


BUT IN SPACE CONTROL.
SPACE CONTROL. THIS IS MILITARY BASE. THE PRISONERS HAVE ESCAPED. ORDER ONE OF BATTLE-FLEET'S SHIPS TO LAND WITHIN THE SPACEPORT PERIMETER AND GIVE SUPPORT.
CONFIRMED, MILITARY BASE.
THEY DON'T KNOW YET THAT WE OCCUPY THE SPACEPORT CONTROL TOWER.

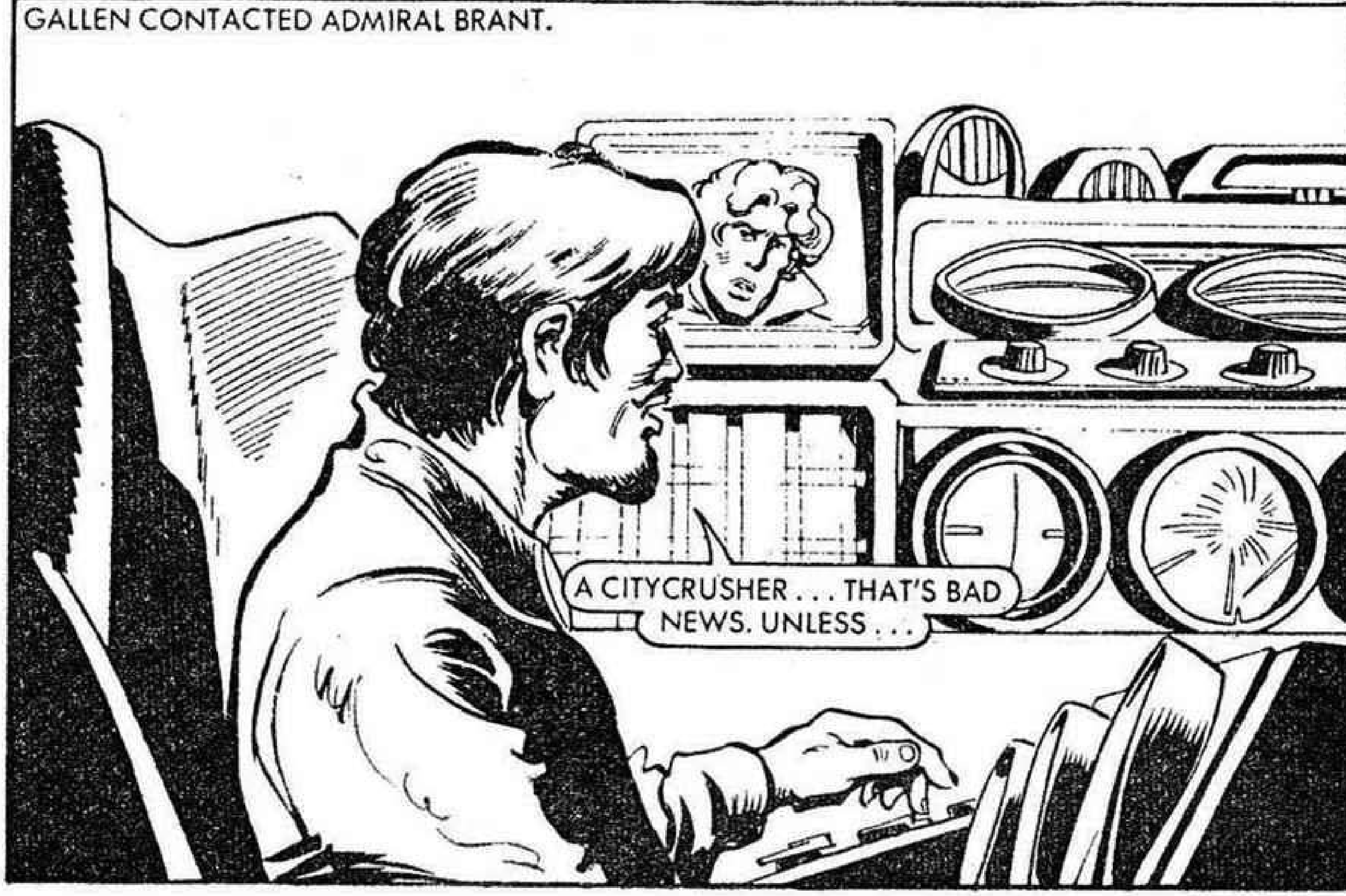

RED GROUP ARRIVED.
GIVE THEM ALL YOU'VE GOT!


THAT'S A SMALL ARMY WE'RE FIGHTING!
I'LL CALL UP BASE. WE NEED A LAND ASSAULT CRAFT!


WITHDRAW! REGROUP.
HOW MUCH LONGER, ADMIRAL. THINGS ARE GETTING PRETTY HOT DOWN THERE!
THE OTHERS ARE HAVING DIFFICULTY MASTERING THE CONTROLS. KEEP FIGHTING.


AT THE CENTURAI CONTROL POINT.
YOU'VE FALLEN BACK! I'LL SEND AN ASSAULT VEHICLE.


A CENTURAI CITYCRUSHER RUMBLED TOWARDS GALLEN'S MEN.
BACK TO COVER.


GALLEN CONTACTED ADMIRAL BRANT.
A CITYCRUSHER . . . THAT'S BAD NEWS. UNLESS . . .

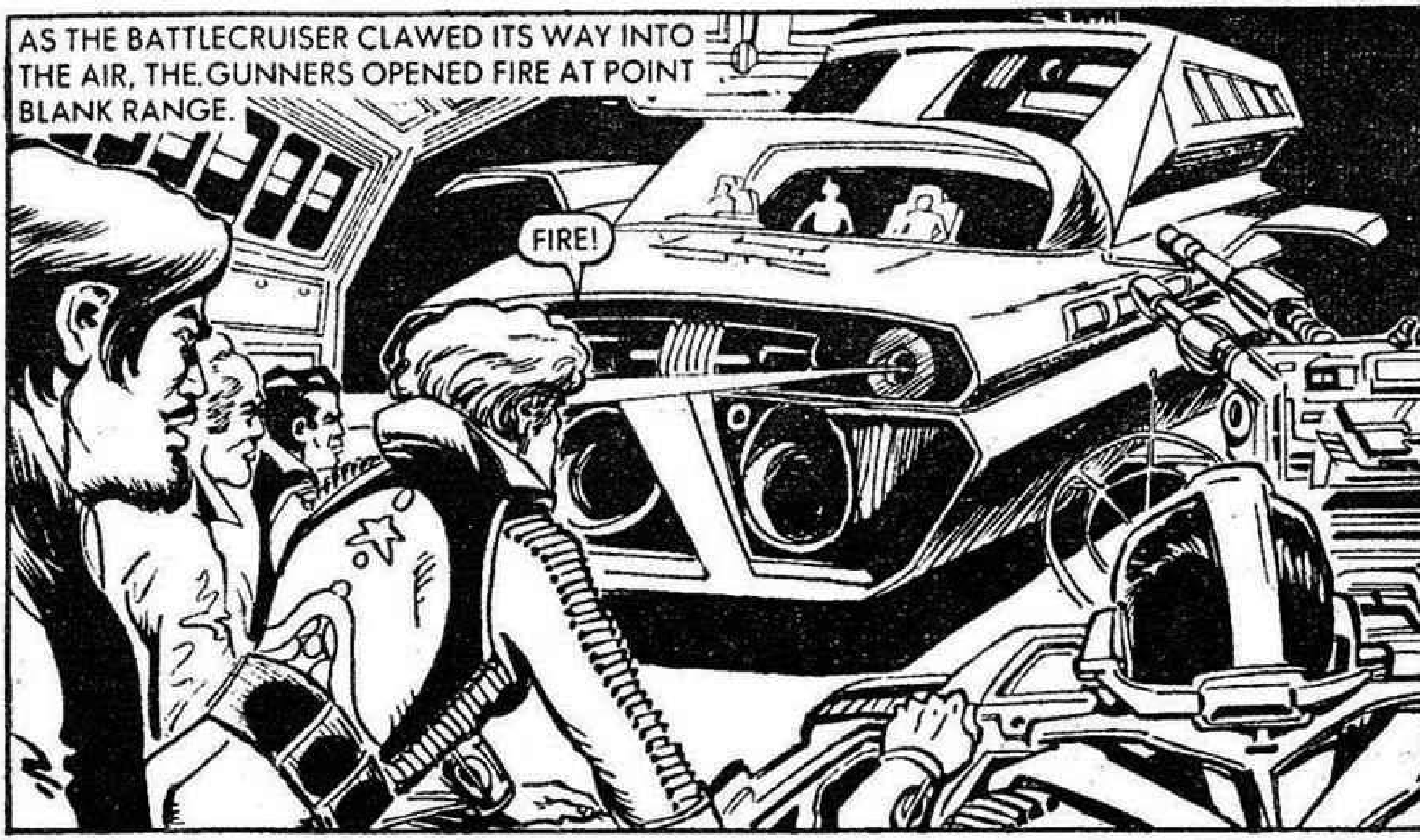

ADMIRAL BRANT SENT OUT A FALSE MESSAGE.
SPACE CONTROL TO BATTLE-FLEET. THE PRISONERS BEING HELD HERE HAVE ESCAPED FROM THE SPACEPORT, AND HAVE CAPTURED A CITYCRUSHER. DESTROY! REPEAT—DESTROY!

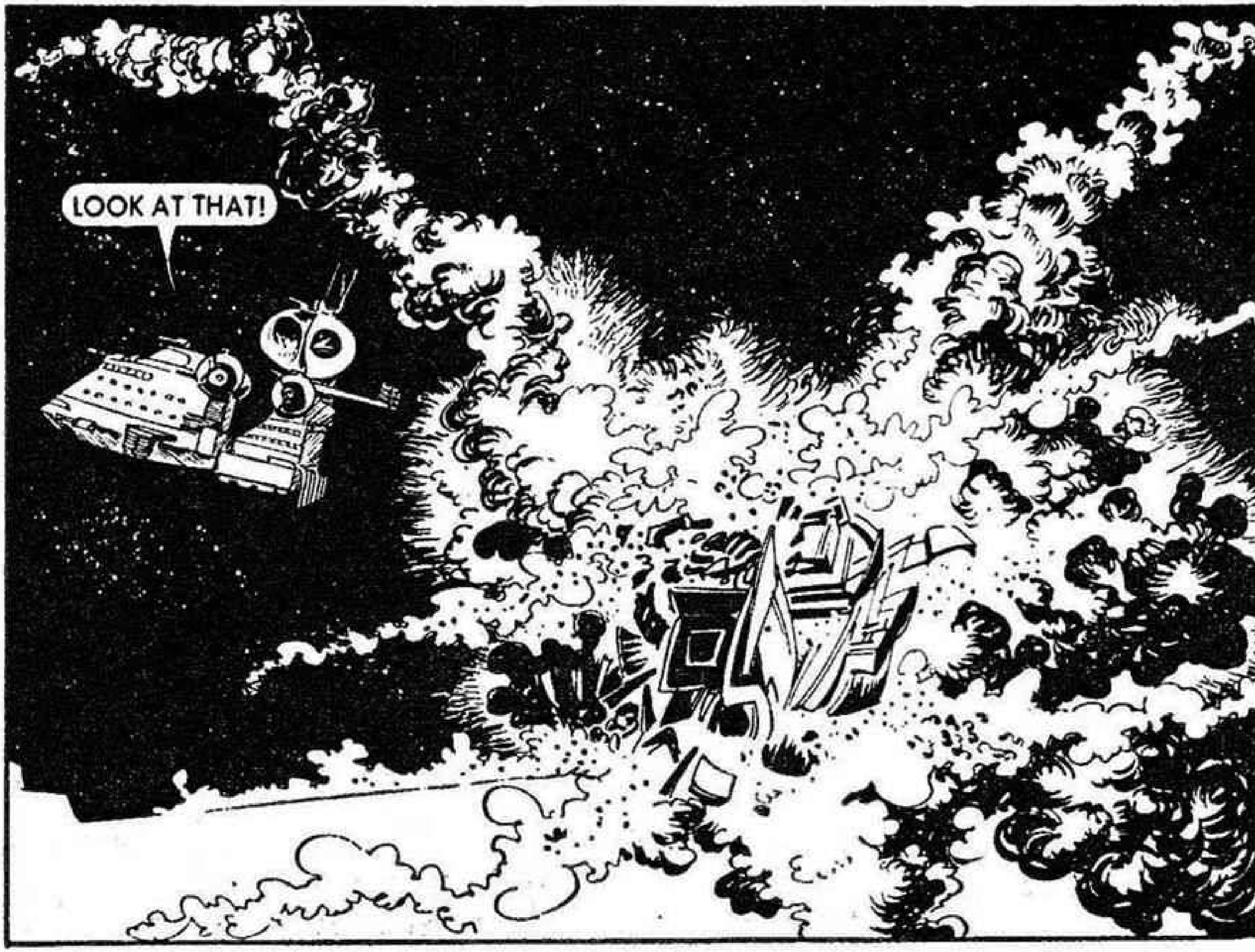
ADMIRAL BRANT'S FAKE ORDER WAS FOLLOWED BY CENTURAI FIGHTERS.

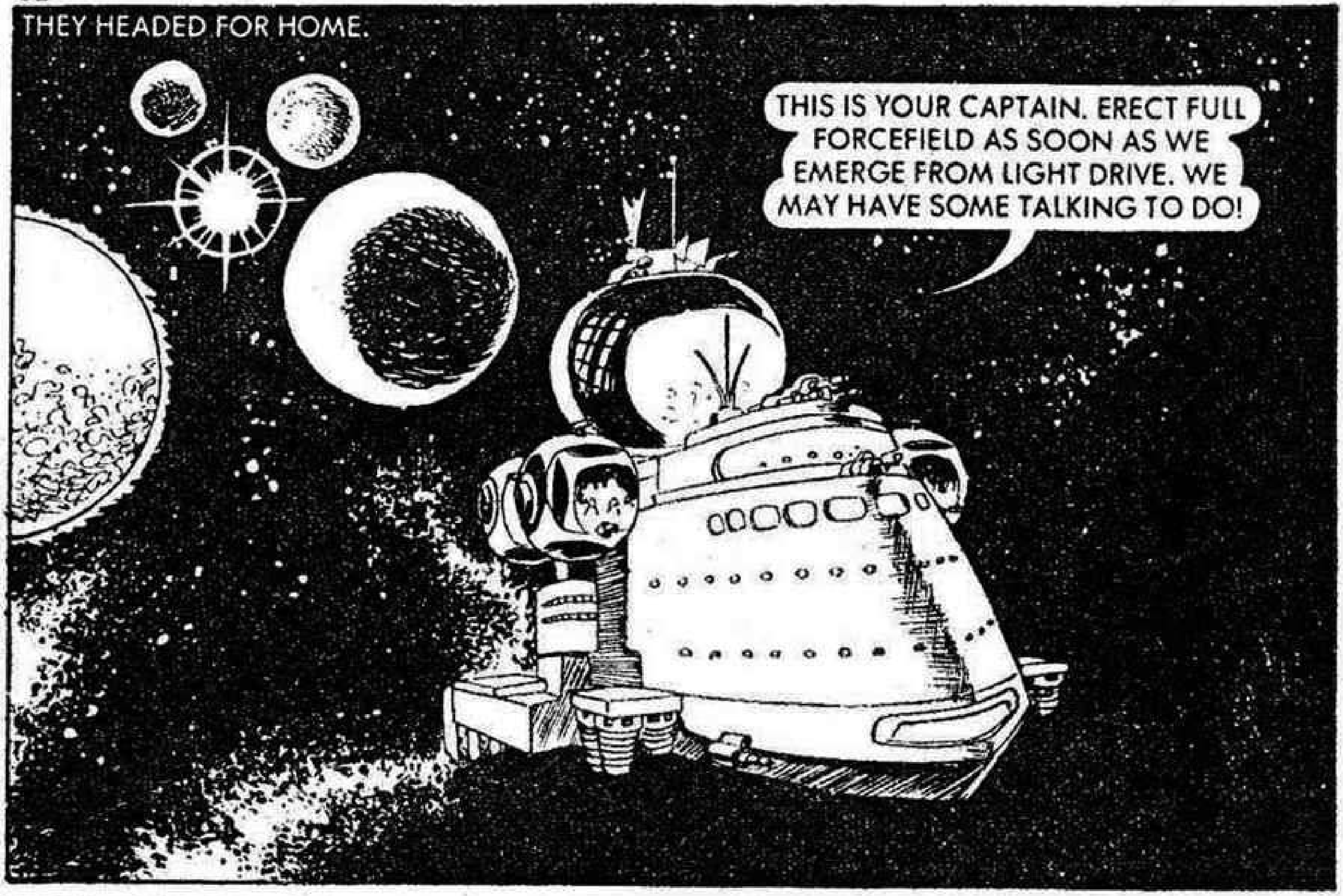


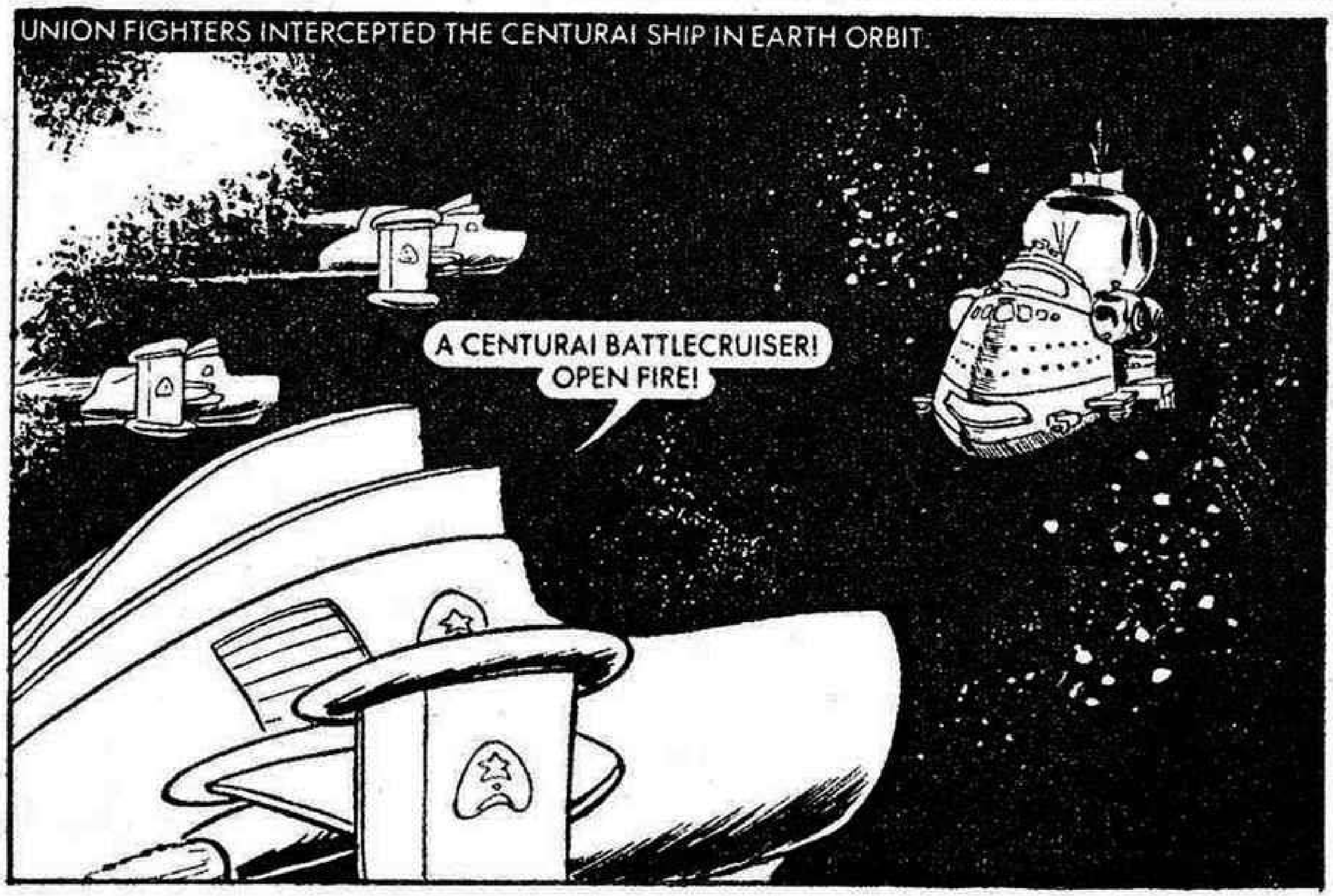

THAT'S TAKEN CARE OF THAT.
THE BATTLECRUISER IS READY. GET OUT OF THERE!
WE'RE READY!
THE TRANSPORTER SPED ACROSS THE SPACEPORT.


MOVE IT! LIFT OFF IN THIRTY SECONDS.
HURRY IT UP, JERRY. ENEMY FIGHTERS CLOSING FROM THE RIGHT.

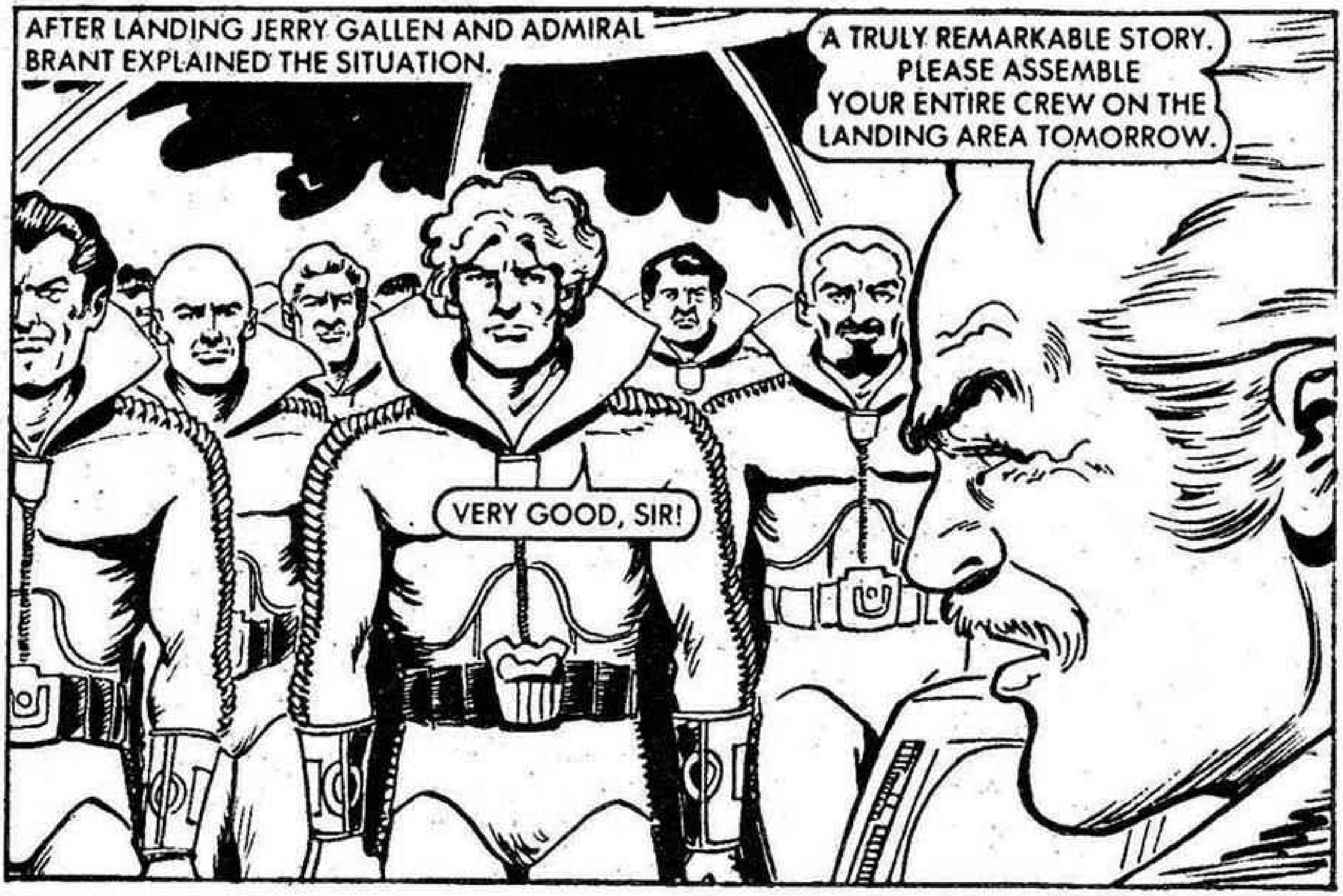

AS THE BATTLECRUISER CLAWED ITS WAY INTO THE AIR, THE GUNNERS OPENED FIRE AT POINT BLANK RANGE.
FIRE!


LOOK AT THAT!

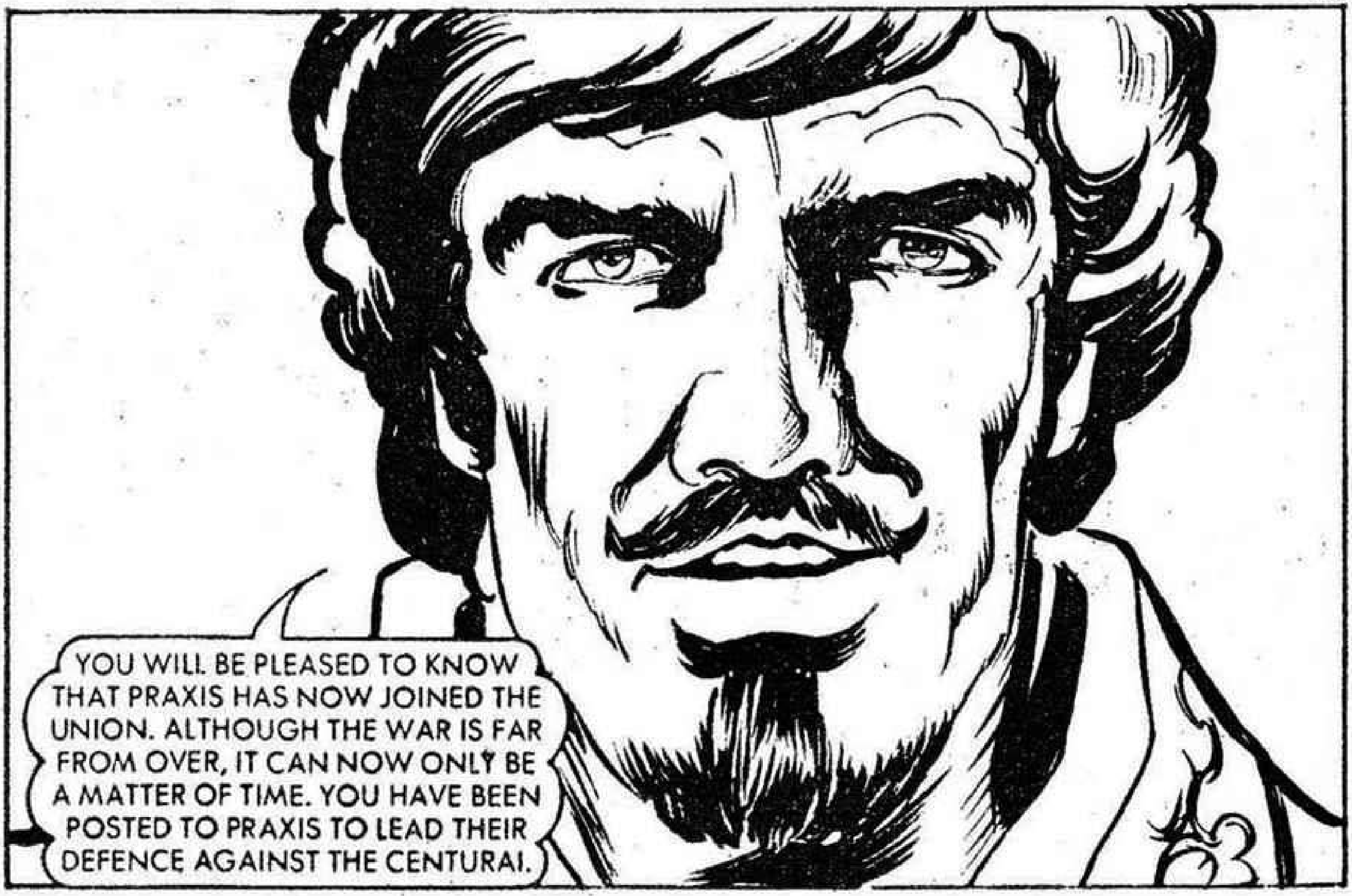

THEY HEADED FOR HOME.
THIS IS YOUR CAPTAIN. ERECT FULL FORCEFIELD AS SOON AS WE EMERGE FROM LIGHT DRIVE. WE MAY HAVE SOME TALKING TO DO!


UNION FIGHTERS INTERCEPTED THE CENTURAI SHIP IN EARTH ORBIT.
A CENTURAI BATTLECRUISER! OPEN FIRE!


AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH, OUR OWN PEOPLE ATTACK US.
TO UNION BATTLEFLEET. THIS IS ADMIRAL BRANT SPEAKING. THIS SHIP IS MANNED BY UNION FORCES. HOLD YOUR FIRE. REPEAT—HOLD YOUR FIRE!
DROP FORCESHIELD, COMMENCE LANDING SEQUENCE.


AFTER LANDING JERRY GALLEN AND ADMIRAL BRANT EXPLAINED THE SITUATION.
A TRULY REMARKABLE STORY. PLEASE ASSEMBLE YOUR ENTIRE CREW ON THE LANDING AREA TOMORROW.
VERY GOOD, SIR!


NEXT MORNING . . .
CAPTAIN GALLEN . . . ALL CHARGES AGAINST YOU HAVE BEEN DROPPED. YOUR CREW HAVE ALSO BEEN RE-INSTATED.


YOU WILL BE PLEASED TO KNOW THAT PRAXIS HAS NOW JOINED THE UNION. ALTHOUGH THE WAR IS FAR FROM OVER, IT CAN NOW ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME. YOU HAVE BEEN POSTED TO PRAXIS TO LEAD THEIR DEFENCE AGAINST THE CENTURAI.

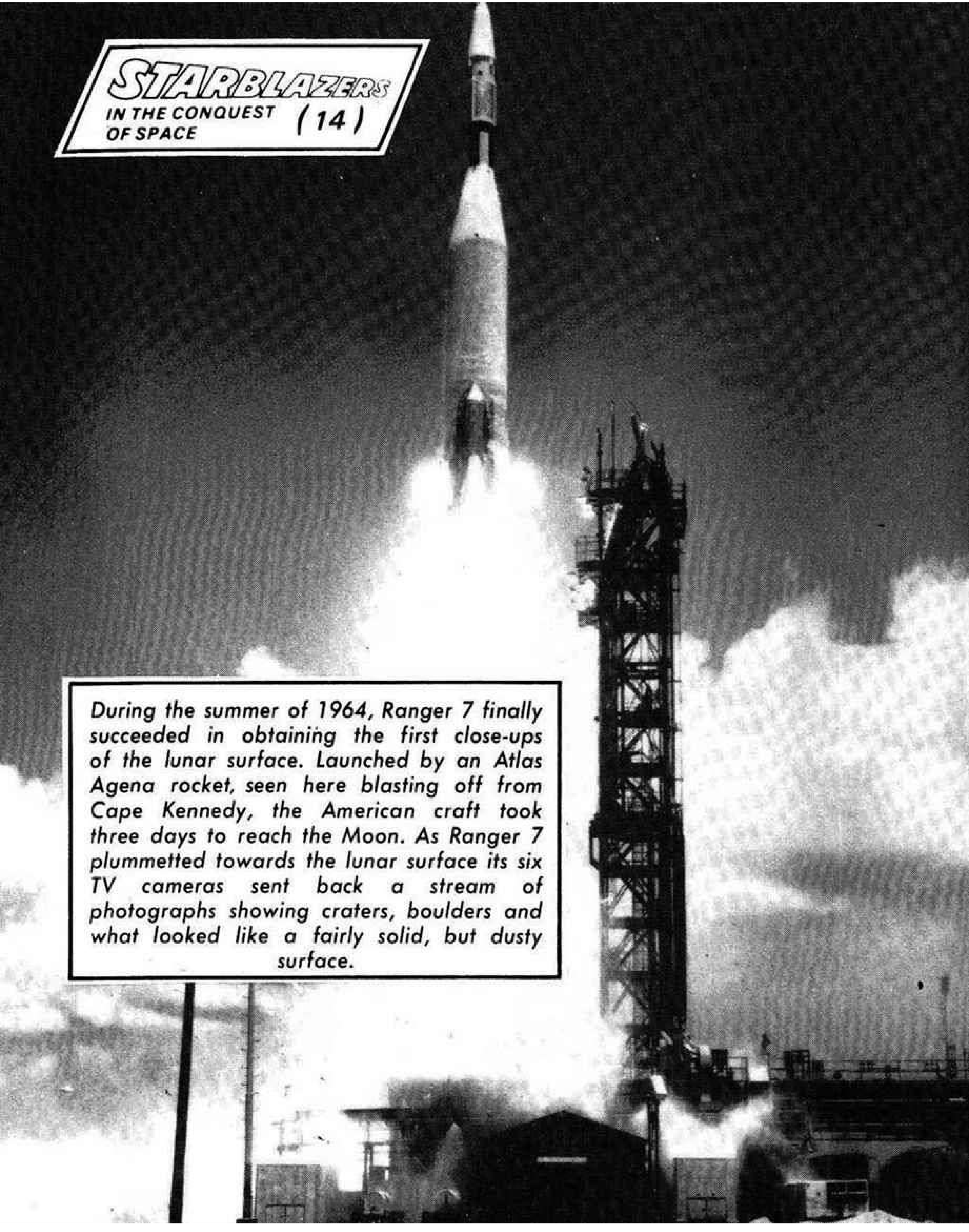

CAPTAIN GALLEN IS PROMOTED TO COMMANDER. YOU WILL ALL SERVE UNDER HIM ON THE CAPTURED BATTLECRUISER ONCE THE NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT!
THANK YOU, SIR!



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STARBLAZERS IN THE CONQUEST OF SPACE (14)



During the summer of 1964, Ranger 7 finally succeeded in obtaining the first close-ups of the lunar surface. Launched by an Atlas Agena rocket, seen here blasting off from Cape Kennedy, the American craft took three days to reach the Moon. As Ranger 7 plummetted towards the lunar surface its six TV cameras sent back a stream of photographs showing craters, boulders and what looked like a fairly solid, but dusty surface.